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The U-shaped design of Mehmet's kitchen keeps it separated from the living area without losing the sense of openness. A focal point in the scheme is the OM extractor, which is echoed by a black glass splashback beneath, supplied by C&C Kitchens. Walls painted in Dulux's cool Almond White allow the Minty Zebrano and dark Linear Wenge veneer units to take centre stage



FINELY GRAINED

Curved cabinetry and bold patterns combine to make a striking yet simple kitchen in Mehmet Ali's London flat





My favourite... design elements are the curves. I love the concave and convex shapes; they flow really

The kitchen in Mehmet Ali's newly completed, north London apartment was a real blank canvas when he moved in. Faced with an empty, open-plan living space, he quickly came up with some strong ideas for making the room his own. 'I wanted something modern and a little out of the ordinary to reflect my personality,' he says.

After meeting designer Michael Percy of C&C Kitchens through his occupation as a building

contractor, Mehmet knew he was the right person to create a seamless, well-appointed kitchen for him. 'We spent ages working on the layout together until we got it exactly right,' he remembers.

Mehmet opted for smart, rounded base units finished in a striking Minty Zebrano hi-gloss, balanced by rich, dark brown wenge veneer furniture to tie the design together. The cabinetry snakes around three walls to form an enclosed kitchen area, neatly sepa-

rating the living space from the working zone of the kitchen. 'When I showed a few people what I'd chosen, some of them wondered if I'd gone a bit crazy,' laughs Mehmet. 'I was particularly keen on the curves because I've liked that style for a long time but it was always very expensive. Now it seems to have become more affordable and this was my opportunity to have it.'

Mehmet enjoys cooking and will prepare anything from roast dinners and pasta dishes to the traditional

Wenge plinths serve to frame the curved design, while underheated porcelain floor tiles from New Tech Flooring run throughout, linking the cooking and living areas. To one side, a bank of cabinetry houses Mehmet's combination oven. 'I can make quick meals in it or something more ambitious,' he smiles



RIGHT Curved fronts make the most of the space in the kitchen, especially in corners. The pattern on the Minty Zebrano cabinetry also appears on the opposite side of the door, while dark interiors give a smart, contrasting effect. In keeping with the fresh, new look, Mehmet invested in cool, white crockery from John Lewis



CENTRE RIGHT A Franke swan-necked tap echoes both the linear and curved lines of the kitchen. Finished in Silk Steel, it complements the stainless-steel appliances and undermounted Blanco sink

BELOW RIGHT Even the smallest storage space is used efficiently. At just 150mm wide, with two chrome baskets and a built-in, soft-close mechanism, this pull-out unit is ideal for Mehmet's bottles of oil and spices. Satin nickel-coated square handles from Metris finish the cabinetry perfectly



Need help starting your kitchen project? See our top 10 tips on page 122

well. When you lean against the cabinets, they almost seem to wrap around you'

Turkish Cypriot cuisine that he grew up with, such as stuffed vine leaves, so it was vital that his equipment was suitable. 'Michael guided me when it came to choosing appliances for the room and I'm really pleased I followed his advice,' he explains. Michael suggested a single electric oven and a combination oven, which included grilling and microwave functions. Aware of Mehmet's preference for clean, simple styling, he also recommended an induction hob to sit discreetly on

the worktop. 'It's easy to use and safe because as soon as the pan comes off there's no heat,' says Mehmet.

Above the hob is a futuristic-looking, black glass OM extractor, undoubtedly the focal point of the room. Mehmet was originally drawn to its contemporary styling but, in an open-plan setting, the OM's power and effectiveness were equally important. White quartz composite worktops were chosen to suit the sleek, modern lines of the new design and allow the ▶



My best buy... was the Siemens induction hob. I think it's fantastic



ABOVE The OM extractor is one of Mehmet's favourite features of the design. It has three speeds, touch-control operation and four integrated halogen lights to illuminate the hob

striped cabinetry to take centre stage. Mehmet knew exactly the type of worksurface he wanted. 'It had to be tough, functional and pure white,' he insists. 'I chose a mid-shine finish, though, to balance the cabinets, which are highly polished.'

The large, off-white floor tiles are also understated to avoid competing with the furniture. To maximise the light feel of the room, Mehmet considered using a white grouting but, for practicality, opted for silver grey. 'An all-white floor would have looked amazing, but I know it would have been a nightmare to keep clean,' he says. 'I think I made a wise choice.'

Once the kitchen was finished, there was no shortage of comments from friends and family. 'My brother had been the harshest critic throughout the whole process but once everything was in place, even he agreed that it did look quite special and that was a big compliment,' smiles Mehmet. 'It might not be to everyone's taste but I think you have to be confident in your choice, and I'm certainly happy with it.'

The tall, wenge unit is divided neatly into three sections and houses a roomy pull-out larder, fridge freezer and two ovens. Its position at one end of the kitchen means it does not interfere with the workspace. An overhanging quartz surface features concealed lighting that shines onto the floor, while stools from Jaycee Furnishing allow it to double as a breakfast bar. Blinds from M2M Contract Interiors dress the large windows

DESIGN & CABINETS

- Michael Pearcy at **C&C Kitchens**, 797 Great Cambridge Road, Enfield, London EN1 3PN (020 8363 7244) www.candckitchens.co.uk
- Minty Zebrano hi-gloss cabinetry and Linear Wenge veneer units, both from the Fitted Curve range by Metris

WORKTOPS

- 30mm Brillante Bianco Stone Italia quartz composite, Quality Granite Tops. Price per sq m **£275**

SINK & TAP

- BlancoZerox 500-U undermounted single-bowl sink in stainless steel, Blanco **£398**
- Olympus C-spout monobloc mixer tap in Silk Steel, Franke **£193**

APPLIANCES (shown)

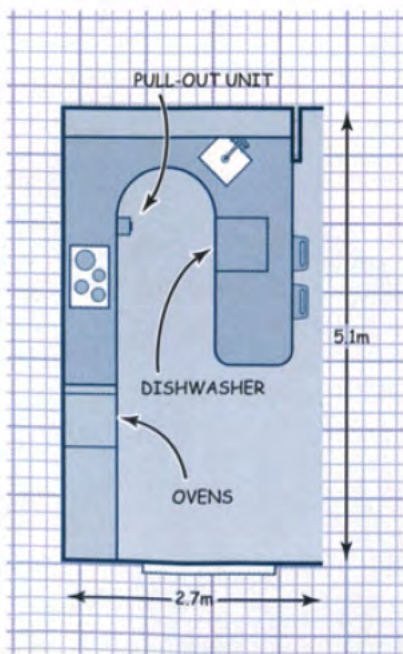
- HB76AB560B built-in PyroKlean single oven, Siemens **£865**
- HB86P572B built-in PyroKlean combination oven, Siemens **£984**
- EH81ITL11E four-zone induction hob, Siemens **£771**
- OM chimney extractor hood in black glass, Elica **£1,745**

APPLIANCES (not shown)

- Fully integrated fridge freezer, Neff **£620**
- Fully integrated dishwasher, Neff **£394**
- Fully integrated washer dryer, Neff **£829**

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FEATURE ANNABELLE GRUNDY PHOTOGRAPHY COLIN POOLE



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and looks just like a sheet of glass with no fussy knobs or bits sticking out.



BELOW Mehmet is particularly pleased with the sturdy feel and effortless operation of the wall cabinets, which have a robust Spin 4 door lifting system by Metris. Lighting both above and below the cupboards supplements the ceiling spots and creates a pleasant atmosphere for entertaining. Mehmet's simple glassware came from John Lewis

BOTTOM Ideal for entertaining, Mehmet's new kitchen design is both functional and stylish

