

# Playing ball

Tricia Cosgrove's passion for rugby inspired her stunning maple kitchen and its unusually shaped dining table



INNOVATIVE

Traditional materials including maple furniture, Forest Green granite and limestone flooring combine in Tricia Cosgrove's kitchen to create a highly individual design. The curved island was created to maximise preparation space, and has a bench seat looking out on views of the garden. The unusual shape of the table was inspired by Tricia's love of rugby. 'Martin said the island was probably one of the most difficult parts of the design to realise, because of the degree of curve,' Tricia reveals



*I wish I'd known how long the kitchen would take to install before I'd embarked on this project. We were using a microwave in the hall for five weeks*

Tricia Cosgrove



First impressions can often be misleading, as Tricia Cosgrove soon discovered with the elegant-looking kitchen in her new home. 'I quickly realised that it wasn't a room to linger in,' she explains. 'The white tiled floor and walls felt cold and clinical, the unit doors chipped easily and banged shut and the layout was very poorly planned. You could only sit at either end of the island on bar stools, which wasn't conducive to relaxed family meals. I've never had such an impractical kitchen in my life. I'd cook in it and then walk straight out.'

For Tricia, her husband John and their sons Gregory, 20, and Benedict, 17, the kitchen is central to family life, so they decided it was worth starting again from scratch. Tricia bought lots of magazines

and set off on a tour of kitchen design showrooms across all price ranges. 'It proved enlightening, as I found even the most expensive designers can be inflexible,' she says, 'and there was no question of choosing anything other than the ranges on offer.'

In search of a bespoke design, Tricia turned to Broomley Furniture and designer Martin Scarth who had previously made a bed for the couple, so they knew his work. 'Nothing was too much trouble for Martin,' she says. 'I knew that as far as craftsmanship went, he'd do an absolutely fantastic job.'

The Cosgroves had one unusual request – their kitchen looks out onto a pretty wooded area and they wanted to turn the focus of the room towards the view, with their preparation and dining spaces looking

The shape of the table was me wanting something



out to the trees and wildlife. Working with Martin, they came up with a design that wraps the main storage around the walls, with a crescent-shaped island and bench seating centre stage, taking in the view. 'John had his say in the straight lines of the cabinets, but I love curves, so the island was my must-have item,' says Tricia. 'The shape of the island and table was down to me simply wanting something different.'

The final element to add was a table, and keen rugby fan Tricia commissioned one inspired by the shape of a rugby ball. It's the perfect finishing touch to her perfect kitchen, and this time she knows that the scheme's stunning first impression is matched by the quality of its design. 'I love everything about this kitchen full stop,' she smiles. **BK**



different



▲ The fully fitted, walk-in larder has plenty of space to store dry goods, tins and bottles. Tricia specified that she wanted 180° hinged doors, so that they fold back completely, making corner shelves easy to reach. The smoked glass-fronted wine cooler from EuroCave is fan assisted to maintain a constant temperature and flow of fresh air

▶ Pull-out drawers in the island feature ventilation holes that keep the vegetables and fruit inside fresh. For similar bow handles try Second Nature

▶ Extra-deep drawers keep pans within easy reach. Bird's-eye maple panels, trimmed with walnut inlay, are set into solid maple frames to form the door and drawer fronts



*The Cosgroves incorporated their existing range cooker into the new design, surrounding it with a new overmantel and side panels that conceal herb and spice racks. 'I definitely spend more time in the kitchen now. I cook more, I entertain more and I talk more,' smiles Tricia*

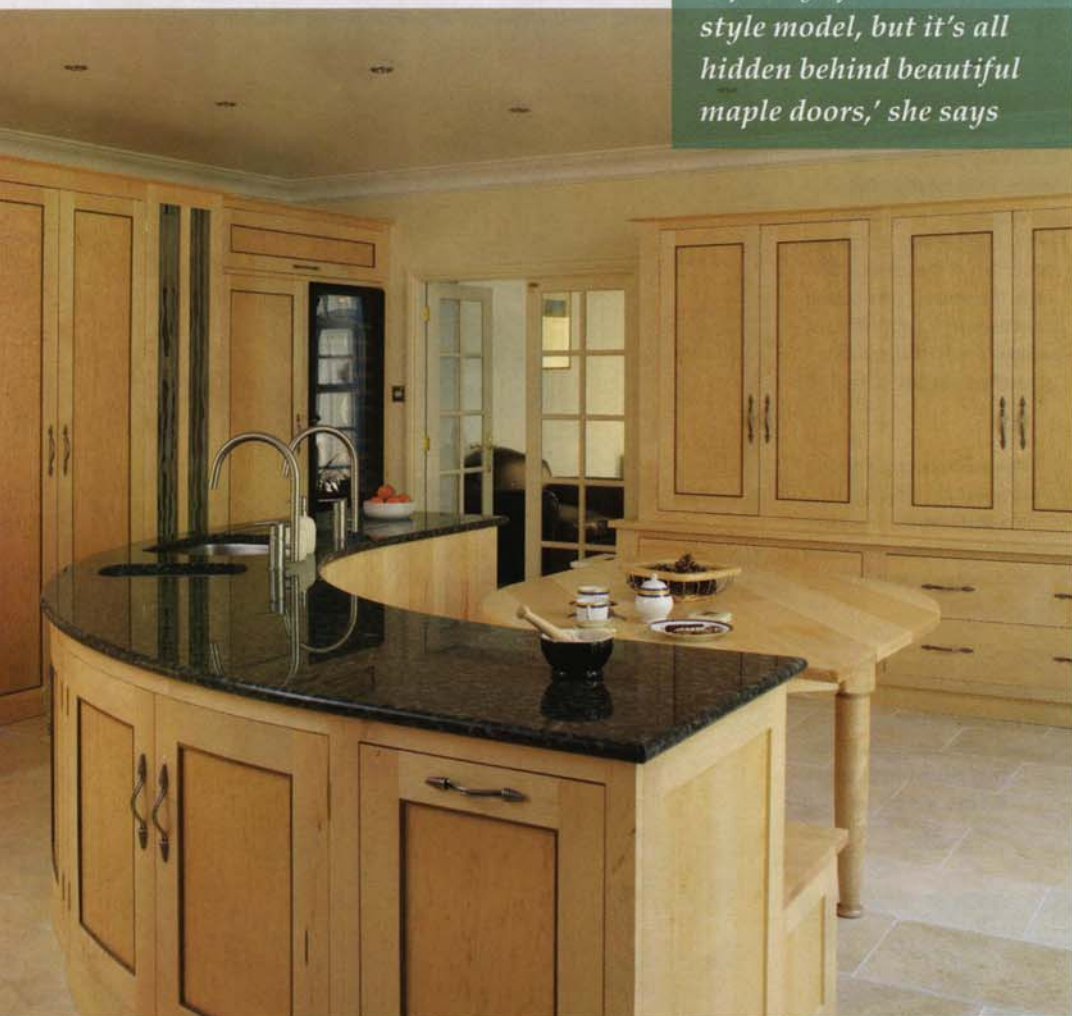


The Cosgroves' home is in the former garden of a country hall in Northumberland. 'The lovely views out to our garden prompted us to turn our kitchen layout around,' Tricia explains

The end seat of the curved bench lifts up to reveal space to store old newspapers and magazines for recycling. The creamy limestone flooring was sourced from Mandarin Stone



*After looking into buying a freestanding side-by-side fridge freezer, Tricia realised that they don't offer as much storage as she hoped so opted for integrated appliances. 'I have more than the capacity of an American-style model, but it's all hidden behind beautiful maple doors,' she says*



**Where to buy** Brass and Traditional Sinks 01291 650738 Britannia 01253 471111  
EuroCave 020 7935 4679 Mandarin Stone 01242 530500 Miele 0845 330 3666  
Perrin & Rowe 01708 526361 Second Nature 01325 505539 WS Westin 01484 421585

## THE KITCHEN FILE

### DESIGN & CABINETRY

- Martin Scarth at **Broomley Furniture**, West Broomley Farm, Stocksfield, Northumberland NE43 7HR (01434 682226) [www.broomleyfurniture.co.uk](http://www.broomleyfurniture.co.uk)
- Bespoke solid and veneer bird's-eye maple furniture with black walnut inlays

### WORKTOPS

- Forest Green granite. Price per sq m **£300**

### SINKS & TAPS

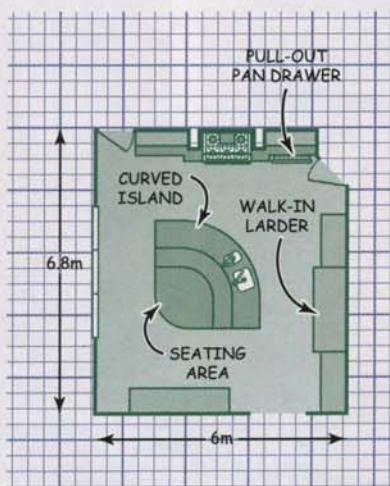
- PMP504 Big D undermounted single-bowl sink, Brass and Traditional Sinks **£308**
- PMP507 Bar undermounted single-bowl sink, Brass and Traditional Sinks **£241**
- 2 x 4041 Randa single-lever mixer taps, Perrin & Rowe, each **£305**

### APPLIANCES (shown)

- Existing Classic dual-fuel range cooker, Britannia, equivalent new, approx **£3,000**
- M8151 built-in microwave, Miele **£540**
- Classic V183 wine cooler, EuroCave **£2,280**

### APPLIANCES (not shown)

- Built-in extractor, WS Westin **£573**
- Fully integrated larder fridge, Miele **£473**
- Fully integrated fridge freezer, Miele **£920**
- Fully integrated freezer, Miele **£405**
- Fully integrated dishwasher, Miele **£788**



### GUIDE PRICE

- Starting price for a Broomley Furniture kitchen **£18,000**