

UTOPIA

KITCHEN & BATHROOM

LOVES... STYLE | DESIGN | TRENDS £4.75 SEPTEMBER 20

Get Creative

SOLUTIONS FOR SMALL SPACES / BRAND NEW PRODUCTS
AMAZING ARTISTIC INTERIORS / BOILING WATER TAPS
COMPETITIONS / STYLISH IDEAS / EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS
TOP TIPS / BEAUTIFUL BATHROOMS / CLEVER KITCHENS

UTOPIA
LOVES

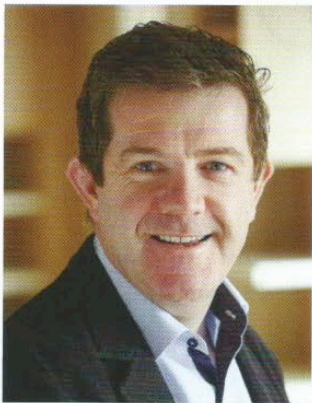
REAL
READERS'
HOMES



9 771753 968053

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

We speak with cabinetmaker, Tom Howley.



Tom Howley

Founder of company Tom Howley, which designs, manufactures and installs bespoke kitchens.

Background

Tom completed an apprenticeship in Dublin, Ireland, training as a cabinetmaker, working in fine reproduction furniture. He then turned his attention to kitchen design, founding his self-titled company in 2004, before selling to interior design powerhouse, Neville Johnson.

Philosophy

"Tom Howley designs, manufactures and installs exquisite bespoke kitchens made from the finest materials. Styles range from classic to contemporary, with a tailored design service taking projects from concept to final completion at the highest possible standard."

Why go bespoke?

A bespoke kitchen can accommodate individual requirements and offers a lot more flexibility. Materials, colours, hardware and so on, have an endless amount of possibilities compared with 'off the shelf' kitchens, which tend to be fairly restricted.

Where do you start?

It is important to understand the client's lifestyle by asking the right questions: what are the storage requirements, what type of food is cooked, who will use the kitchen and so on.

What are you asked for most?

The priority requirement for most of our clients would be the kitchen island. It is very versatile and can be adapted to suit everyone's lifestyle – preparing food and cooking, coupled with stools for informal dining, makes an island the centre of attention in any great kitchen design.

Has this changed in recent years?

Yes, most certainly. Kitchens need to be larger nowadays as we see more people entertaining in their homes than ever before. Families like to spend time together



Above: A stainless steel Britannia Living Delphi cooker is surrounded by bespoke hand-painted Willow grey cabinetry.

Below: This bespoke kitchen features Honesty grey cabinetry surrounding a Nightshade black island.



and by having one big open-plan space the kitchen has definitely become the focal point of the household.

What makes a 'good' bespoke kitchen 'great'?

It has to tick all the boxes that we have mentioned earlier, but also has to look great. All the furniture we design is truly bespoke, which

allows us the opportunity to design kitchens that are perfect for the space we have to work with. Well scaled pieces are the key to great design.

Any additional advice for homeowners?

Don't choose appliances or pieces of furniture that do not suit your space.

tomhowley.co.uk