

25 Beautiful Kitchens - September 2007

Knocking their kitchen and dining room together into one open-plan space has made a big difference to Bill and Ina

Chatham. The couple's bungalow, built in 1993, was specially designed to accommodate Bill's wheelchair, but he'd never found it easy to join in with the cooking due to the lack of room in the kitchen. 'We didn't use the dining room much, so it made sense to create one large area,' Ina explains.

With the building work complete, the next challenge was to find a layout that would work for Bill. The couple contacted designer Colin Taylor at Rota Installations and settled on white hi-gloss cabinets with contrasting black composite stone worktops. 'Every surface is easy to clean and the white makes the room look bigger,' Ina reveals.

Every element of the room, from appliances to storage, has been arranged to make life easier for Bill. 'There's a corner cupboard that spins round so that he can reach items stored at the back without having to stretch,' Ina explains. 'Colin also substituted some cupboards for drawers, which Bill finds easier to access.'

The focal point of the scheme is a triangular splashback made from the same composite stone used for the worksurfaces. 'I spotted the design in Rota's showroom and loved it,' says Ina. 'Everyone says "wow" when they first see it.'

Both Bill and Ina are impressed at the difference the new kitchen has made. 'The hob has been lowered so it's at the perfect height for me to cook on,' Bill explains. 'It sums up what's great about this kitchen – nothing is difficult any more so Ina and I can cook together. We wish we'd done it years ago.'

BK

My favourite design element is the splashback. I love its shape and we've fitted 22 tiny bulbs in the ceiling to make the Fool's Gold in the stone really sparkle

Ina Chatham



Rotating shelves offer easy access to a corner storage unit that would otherwise have been off-limits to Bill. 'We felt something was lacking in that area, so we asked Colin to put a built-in chopping board on top,' says Ina. 'We use it every day'

Flotex flooring in Senya Anthracite from Bonar Floors has been laid throughout the kitchen and dining area. 'It stands up well to wheelchair use and doesn't show marks,' says Ina. The round dining table and chairs came from BoConcept

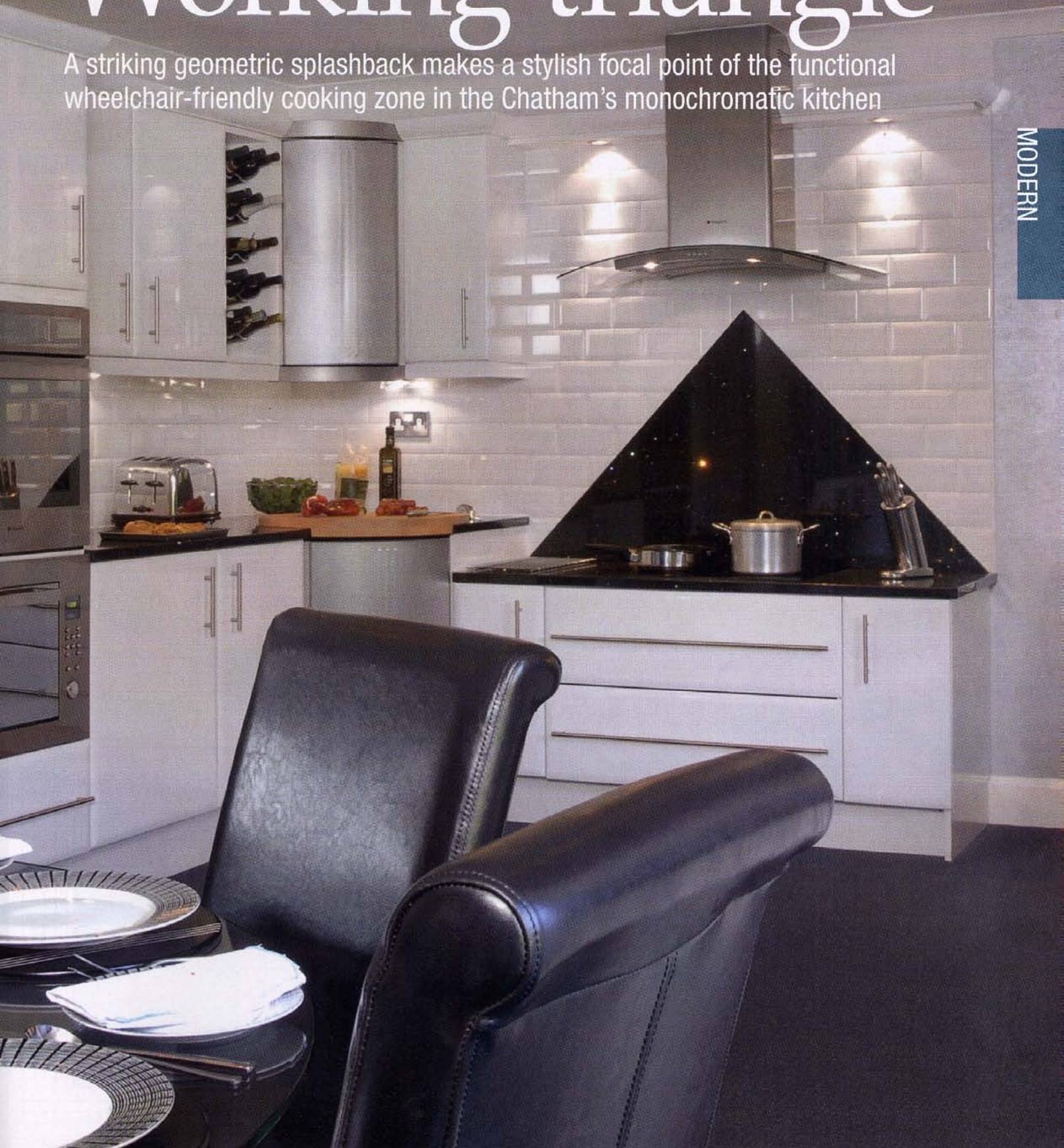


The best thing about the kitchen

Working triangle

A striking geometric splashback makes a stylish focal point of the functional wheelchair-friendly cooking zone in the Chatham's monochromatic kitchen

MODERN



...s we can cook together now. We wish we'd done it before

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Tall and slim, a pull-out larder with a soft-closing mechanism has been fitted next to the built-in oven and microwave to maximise storage

Washing-up duties are minimal thanks to an integrated dishwasher, which Ina chose for its A-rated wash performance and energy efficiency



A wealth of clever storage is hidden within the long sink run, including integrated recycling boxes and slender, steel-fronted pull-out units with hanging rails for tea towels. The geometrically patterned roller blinds came from Shades Blinds



Where to buy BoConcept 01924 460483 Bonar Floors 01773 744121 Hotpoint 0870 150 6070
Second Nature 01325 505539 Shades Blinds 0800 917 4499 Whirlpool 0870 600 8989

THE KITCHEN FILE

DESIGN & CABINERY

- Colin Taylor at **Rota Installations**, 2 Princess Road, Coronation Road Industrial Estate, New Stevenston, Motherwell, North Lanarkshire ML1 4HP (01698 831011) www.rota-installations.co.uk
- Saponetta white hi-gloss units by Second Nature

WORKTOPS

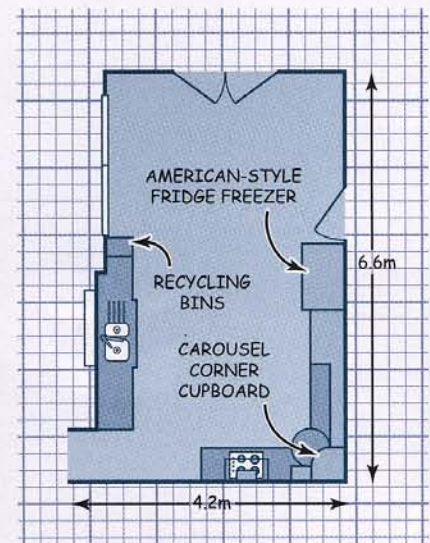
- Gobi Crystal Black composite stone, Second Nature. Price per sq m **£568**

SINKS & TAP

- TUS400/400 undermounted single-bowl sink in stainless steel, Second Nature **£145**
- TUS240/370 undermounted half-bowl sink in stainless steel, Second Nature **£105**
- Venus monobloc mixer tap in chrome, Second Nature **£150**

APPLIANCES (shown)

- SE1002 Touch Control single oven, Hotpoint **£583**
- MWHZ33 combination microwave, Hotpoint **£500**
- E7134 Touch Control ceramic hob, Hotpoint **£480**
- HTC92 chimney hood, Hotpoint **£440**
- FRUU2VAF20 American-style fridge freezer, Whirlpool **£900**
- BF1620 fully integrated dishwasher, Hotpoint **£349**



GUIDE PRICE

- Total cost excluding building work and flooring **£23,500**