

We love... L-SHAPED KITCHENS

A classic, simple design that works well in any size or space, an L-shaped layout is practical, adaptable and always looks great

The Zebrano veneer's vertical grain draws the eye upwards in this L-shaped Metro scheme from Roundhouse Design. Stainless-steel and walnut worktops complete the look. Priced from £30,000

When deciding on a layout for your kitchen, your choices are to a large extent dictated by the shape and size of the room, but that doesn't mean you have to be restricted when it comes to style.

Whether the space is small, medium or large, an L-shaped layout works with both contemporary and traditional cabinetry. The form is also flexible enough to adapt

to specific structural requirements, such as sloping ceilings or large windows.

In a small kitchen, an L shape is ideal as it concentrates all storage and appliances into two sides of the room, leaving the others free and open, so making the overall space seem bigger. For larger kitchens or open-plan designs, an L-shaped layout can serve as a divider between the cooking and living zones or as an informal dining

area, with the bottom of the L becoming a useful breakfast bar. As in all kitchen designs, practicality is key. According to Marco Rossi, head of product at Magnet: 'Each main work station should be within a couple of metres of one another, where the fridge, sink and cooker make up a working triangle.'

Whatever the size of your kitchen, the beauty of an L shape lies in its simplicity, adaptability and, above all, its flexibility.



1 Fitting your cabinetry, worktops and storage into an L shape leaves the remainder of your kitchen free to be decorated as you wish. Here, units on two sides of the room allow for an uncluttered look on the opposite wall, enhancing the sense of space. Statement wallpaper by the door and the window surrounds adds a designer touch, without it being overly fussy. **Sola Kitchens' Bolmen** range is priced from £26,000

– and hiding those you don't, while integrated handles avoid any distraction from the minimalist design. **SieMatic S2** cabinetry in Havana Brown and Caramel Maple, priced from £15,000

2 Break up an L-shaped kitchen by painting units in different colours to create a freestanding look. This bespoke design includes a double-bowl French farmhouse sink, oiled oak worktops and wrought-iron handles. **Thomas & Thomas** kitchens are priced from £30,000

4 A sloping roof becomes a design feature in this light and airy scheme. Breakfronting in both the sink run and in the cooking area also adds interest to this traditional design. A dresser-style, countertop unit with glass shelves and door panels continues the country theme. **G440** cabinetry by Porcelanosa, priced from £20,000



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Suspended units add to the available floor space, while under-cabinet illumination provides useful task lighting in this design. Shown in Alabaster, but available in a large range of colours, **Avant** kitchens from **Second Nature** cost from £9,000



1



2

1 Here, the L neatly hugs two walls but there's still enough space left over for a family-size dining table. Having the cabinetry, shelving, sill, chairs and table all painted in a similar shade links the decor, while stronger colours on the walls provide an element of contrast, without it being overpowering. **Abbey Oyster** kitchen from **Christies**, priced from £7,000

3 L-shaped or not L-shaped? This painted-oak scheme from **Higham Furniture** features a long and short run of units forming an L. However, a space in between the cupboards gives the scheme a freestanding feel. The non-fitted look is further emphasised by the use of different colours on the cabinets, as well as worktops in both oak and CaesarStone. **Higham Furniture** kitchens, from £9,600



Open shelving at the end of the L gives a spacious feel to this **Mango Yellow** design from **Neil Lerner**. The composite worktop and mosaic tiles provide contrast, while numerous LEDs offer handy task lighting. **Neil Lerner** kitchens, from £30,000



4

2 Combining tall cupboards with floor and wall units creates an L with a difference, as shown in this **Paine** design. A mixture of cabinets and drawers make storing pans, pots and general paraphernalia a breeze, while under-cabinet lighting is practical, as well as pretty. **Paine** cabinetry, by **Wren Kitchens**, costs from £1,560

4 Curves soften the look of an L-shape layout – here, they're present at the end of the run on both the floor and wall cabinets, the plinth and the granite worktop. In this design, warm light-oak cabinetry contrasts well with the vibrant, lime-green walls. **Tate** by **Stoneham Kitchens**, from £20,000



3



Taking the L shape to a new level, this **Warendorf Swing** kitchen focuses the eye on the wall, as well as the floor. The peninsula appears to be floating, while the wall-mounted units harmonise the design. Swing by Warendorf is priced from £20,000



This tightly grouped L allows the rest of a large room be given over to family life. **Grado** from Schuller's C Collection is intended to be the hub of the home but part of a wider space, also. Shown here in Hornbeam with white lacquer wall cabinets, a 600mm base unit starts from £170



1 Tall cabinets are a great way of integrating a fridge freezer and providing additional storage space. The bar-type handles in this oak-finish **Faro** kitchen add to the clean, sleek lines of the L-shaped design. A 600mm **Faro** base unit from **Magnet** costs £134

dining space for the family, or somewhere to enjoy a coffee with friends. Taking its cue from the colourful bar stools, the red **Intaglio** glass splashback works well with both the cream worktop and oak cabinetry. Priced from £12,000 at **Kitchens International**

2 Give a wood-effect kitchen an edge with statement wall finishes. Here, an Ikea kitchen, featuring **Tidaholm** oak-veneer doors, is brought to life with a splashback made up of patterned monochrome tiles. The red walls provide a modern contrast to the more traditional cabinet design. **Ikea Tidaholm** doors are priced from £34

4 Black pearl granite worktops and upstand add a classic monochrome aspect to this hand-painted tulipwood Georgian kitchen from **Davonport**. A butler sink is incorporated into the run of base units without interrupting the flow of the cabinetry, while the L-shaped layout fits snugly into the available space. **Davonport Georgian** kitchens, priced from £32,000

3 An L-shape ending in a breakfast bar provides informal



'An L-shaped kitchen makes excellent use of space — it's practical, too, as the working triangle can be easily established'

SOFA BUNE STRANDH,
MANAGING DIRECTOR, SOLA KITCHENS



FEATURE LISA BURN