

Judges are looking at how designers managed to achieve flair and individuality while keeping within reasonable budgets – a genuine skill essential for the success of the front-line kitchen and bathroom retailer. Did they spend the money wisely to exceed the expectations of their clients?

KITCHEN DESIGNER OF THE YEAR

Project cost over £50,000

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1

**ANDREW RIZZA,
DREAM DESIGN**

Project cost: £120,000
Cost includes: VAT,
installation, product

In 2011, Andrew's clients bought a property on the outskirts of Lymington in Hampshire. It was the plot that they fell in love with, which uniquely included a stretch of beach, but the house was less impressive. Plans were drawn up for a replacement dwelling – a substantial home with various auxiliary outbuildings, including a boat-house and tennis pavilion.

The architects cleverly designed a home shaped to break up the offshore wind and Andrew was tasked with the interior spatial planning. Informal dining for 10 people, casual lounge seating, a large television, a walk-in pantry and a grand piano all needed to be accommodated in the kitchen.



2

**MARTIN SMITH,
HOLLOWAYS OF LUDLOW**

Project cost: £60,000
Cost includes: VAT,
installation, product,
building work

The client's original kitchen was a restricted space at the rear of their terraced London home. They wanted a new kitchen that would provide three functions – cooking, eating and relaxing. Martin also needed to consider that their long and narrow kitchen was awkwardly shaped, as it had an angled wall at its rear that tapered in sharply. The location and shape of the sculptured island was key to enabling the room to serve the three functions. Since the room was too small to accommodate a dining table in addition to a TV seating area, the seamless connection of the table to the island was a creative and space-saving solution.



3

**DAN STRONGE,
JONES BRITAIN**

Project cost: £52,500
Cost includes: Dry fit
installation, product

The brief was to design a sleek, contemporary bespoke kitchen with an island. It was to be a handleless design, with two-tone gloss and stained wood, large seating attached to an island, and an integrated bank of appliances. Dan developed a backwards question mark into a workable design which he transferred on to the ceiling for a dropped bulkhead with a perfect circle tapering to a straight run back to a run of tall units. The banquette seating below, although a perfect circle, fanned out on the inside allowing easier access from one side, also gave an interesting shape to the overall design as the tops above curved round and narrowed to nothing at the end.



4

**SOFIA BUNE STRANDH,
SOLA KITCHENS**

Project cost: £91,000
Cost includes: Installation,
product

The client's specification was to have a classic kitchen with a modern twist. The family also wanted plenty of storage and workspace as well as a large seating area at the island. The family has three children and entertain a lot so they wanted a very sociable space. The kitchen is completely bespoke and handmade of solid wood in Sweden. To make the 4.5 metre-long island feel lighter it was lifted it up on legs and LED lights were added underneath. Sofia used different worktop material on the island, a marble-effect composite on the work area and white-stained solid oak for the bar area.

BATHROOM DESIGNER OF THE YEAR

Project cost over £25,000

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1

**ANDREW RIZZA,
DREAM DESIGN**

Project cost: £52,700
Cost includes: VAT, installation,
product, building work

Andrew's clients were a couple in their forties with a teenage daughter who were renovating a beautiful country house in Burley in the New Forest. They initially asked Andrew to redesign their existing principal en suite, but during the survey it became apparent that the room was too small to accommodate everything they wanted. Andrew suggested changing the existing en-suite into a walk-in wardrobe and then creating a large en-suite bathroom in the adjacent nursery. They were very excited by this and subsequently commissioned Dream Design to undertake the design and specification for the complete suite.



2

**PIPPA PATON,
PIPPA PATON DESIGN**
Project cost: £27,300
Cost includes: Installation,
product

A luxurious master en suite was the brief from Pippa's clients, a working couple with three children who live in London but own this weekend house in the Cotswolds. In order to achieve a luxurious feel, several different textures were used in the bathroom including limestone, slate and a textured wallpaper. A large bespoke double basin made from limestone was designed for the couple with a mirror above, framed in the same limestone. A polished nickel William Holland bath was positioned to look out over the beautiful gardens, and has a column clad in limestone next to it for the bath controls.



3

**DORIAN AND BABETTE BOWEN,
PROJECT ONE**

Project cost: £29,000
Cost includes: VAT, installation,
product, building work

Clients Charles and Sophia had recently moved from the city to this 600-year-old country retreat. Recently retired, they both committed time to sourcing and researching products with visits to studios and workshops. They had stayed in the Ritz and Savoy and wanted a design that reflected these bathrooms, so Dorian and Babette had to create three bathrooms in total that each had an individual look, feel and purpose, but that still reflected the individuality of the house. The furniture comes from Project One's own joinery collection.

While budget was substantial in these categories, judges are keenly looking at value for money and whether the designer has successfully met the all-important brief while still managing to exceed expectations. Did they use the money to create something unique and inspiring – or simply spend it on expensive products?

KITCHEN DESIGNER OF THE YEAR

Project cost £30,000 to £50,000

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1

**JOHN HART-WOODS,
HART-WOODS KITCHENS**
Project cost: £30,000
Cost includes: VAT,
installation, product

The simple brief to John was to design a large, elegant and charming working kitchen space that would include great appliances, a functional dining and seating area and lots of cupboard space and room for cooking. That's always easier said than done, of course, and the room itself was a very large space set among a vast open plan layout beside the family's main collective living zone. The result is, as John describes it, "timeless" and the final touch was the hand painting on site by Matthews & Tarleton.



2

**KIERON BELL,
KITCHENS INTERNATIONAL**
Project cost: £44,000
Cost includes: VAT on
appliances, installation,
products

A retirement move to St Andrews from Edinburgh was the catalyst for this project as Kieron's clients fell in love with a 13th century five-storey townhouse in need of serious renovation. Their architect convinced them that they could use the vaulted cellar space as a dining room and kitchen. Kieron was brought in to make it come true. He's managed to zone the space very effectively and come up with a fitting design that enhances the awkward space.



3

**MATT PODESTA,
PODESTA**
Project cost: £48,000
Cost includes: Installation,
products

A developer himself, Matt's client was looking for a classic-with-a-twist kitchen for a new-build property in Marlow. Small elements such as the oversize handles on the fridge/larder run give this design a slightly out-of-the-ordinary touch. The island is pure furniture with leg details, moulding under the worktop and small feet to posts. The cornice on the larder run is a bolection curve frieze and there are panelled ends and dovetailed drawers on the latest Blum soft-close runners.



4

**SOFIA BUNE STRANDH,
SOLA KITCHENS**
Project cost: £31,000
Cost includes: Installation,
product excluding
appliances

The house is a Victorian property in Wimbledon, which the clients extended to create a large kitchen and dining area. They spend a lot of time in the kitchen, cooking and socialising, and wanted a Scandinavian style that would last and withstand bumps and bangs from two growing boys. The clients wanted a homely feel, so the choice of material and colours was crucial. The solid oak worktop on the island and cooking area, in combination with the forest-themed wallpaper, and warm grey and green walls creates a warmth to the kitchen. The solid oak table adds to the cosiness of the room, while the stainless steel worktop adds practical character.

BATHROOM DESIGNER OF THE YEAR

Project cost £10,000 - £25,000

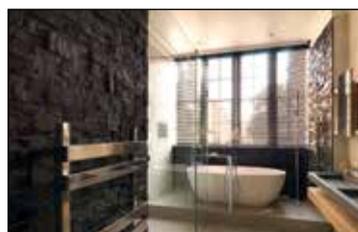
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1

**RACHEL BARCLAY, CHANNEL
ISLAND CERAMICS**
Project cost: £24,240
Cost includes: Products only

The main feature of this room is the sea view from two patio doors on to the balcony and Rachel's clients wanted to be able to sit in the bath and gaze at the view. The rear wall was more than 6.3 metres long with a tall ceiling, so Rachel split the room into three distinctive areas – showering, bathing and the basins and WC areas. She then introduced a curve at the bath end to soften that area and tie it in with the curve of the bath.



2

**ALAN CRAWFORD, CRAWFORD
PARTNERSHIP**
Project cost: Seen by judges
Cost includes: VAT,
installation, product

Alan has created a great example of a modern contemporary bathroom with a mixture of materials and textures with brassware and shower from Hansgrohe, tiles from CP Hart, furniture from Balance Bathroom, and bath from Aquamass. The value for money is incredibly high too, meeting the client's brief perfectly.



3

**SUSAN BOYLAN,
PORCELANOSA SCOTLAND**
Project cost: £12,842
Cost includes: Product

Susan's client was a successful local businessman and he wanted a luxury master en suite with natural products that were "warm, rich and timeless". Susan created a layout that makes it very accessible for two people to use the room at the same time. The bath is the main focal point of the room and a feature the client loves is being able to take in views of the woodland through the window while relaxing in a bath. For a touch of luxury, Susan also added the chandelier above the bath which adds further emphasis.



4

**MARTIN AND LISA HAMMOND,
RIPPLES SOLIHULL**
Project cost: £23,870
Cost includes: Product not
including wardrobes

The clients are in their late thirties and run a very successful business. They had just finished building their dream family home in rural Warwickshire with views across open fields. However, the Hammonds could see that the layout of the master bedroom, dressing room and en suite wasn't quite right as three separate rooms. They reworked the space based on the luxury hotels the clients loved to stay in while travelling and came up with this spacious and appealing project.