



# Bright Design

Stephen and Rachel knew they wanted an Andrew Ryan kitchen as soon as they walked into the showroom in County Wexford. After major remodelling work in their Blackrock home, a stunning, bright design in solid wood was created to fit seamlessly into their open-plan space.



As their new kitchen was part of an overall house remodel and extension, the couple wanted everything to be exactly how they had envisaged. Rachel explains, 'Our new house wasn't a new-build but essentially it didn't have a kitchen when we moved into it. It was quite dilapidated and hadn't had any refurbishment done in decades. The only thing that was in the kitchen was a plug-in freestanding cooker and there was not even any cabinetry, nothing. The whole of the downstairs was essentially gutted so there was very little of the existing structure remaining.'

Rachel continues, 'Andrew Ryan Furniture are known locally as bespoke, high-end, good quality kitchen makers, and when I went into the showroom it just ticked all the boxes for me. It was love at first sight and I knew that was the kitchen I wanted.'

So how did the couple decide on the overall design and what elements were they certain they wanted? 'We had a design brief,' explains Rachel. 'I knew exactly what I wanted and as my aunt had just got a kitchen from Andrew Ryan, I knew that I wanted a traditional, high-quality finish. With regards to elements we knew we wanted, my husband for as long as he has lived, has wanted an Aga. For me I knew I wanted a cream, solid wood kitchen with various different finishes like a flush finish with beading around the doors as well as corning, it was just a question of getting all of these elements fitted in.'

A concept design was then agreed and the project began under the guidance of designer Aiden Ryan. Soon a strong trust was built up between the couple and designer, which gave them the confidence to mix finishes, upgrade their appliances and deliver an overall concept for the room. As they wanted to introduce a mix of woods into their kitchen, they chose a solid painted model in Farrow & Ball colours with solid walnut in kitchen details and interiors. Additional design features are seen throughout with an aluminium strip routed into the curved pillars and double height moulding to finish the tall units. The door style is traditional with a raised panel and is flush fitting with a bead detail. A display and drinks cabinet with solid walnut top was fitted into the living area and links the large room. An additional handmade tall curved door unit with a solid walnut interior maintains the flow throughout the room and provides valuable larder storage near the Aga where a coffee machine and toaster are located. All these small details together add to the sense of timeless sophistication. The couple also particularly love the way that the curved pillars allowed a flow throughout the area as their kitchen is a large room opening out into a dining and living area, and so therefore the aesthetics of the kitchen were particularly important to them.

The appliances were demonstrated to the couple in the showroom and this meant that they could see them working first hand and made the overall choice much easier for them.

During this visit they also saw a working Aga and a Gaggenau Vario Cool fridge-freezer and knew that these appliances would add an extra dimension to their kitchen. Rachel adds, 'My husband also really wanted the fridge-freezer so we could have a water and ice dispenser. We decided on the slick, Gaggenau fridge-freezer which is integrated.'

The couple decided on a stunning Silestone worktop. Rachel explains, 'I wanted a marble worktop but not the upkeep and the disadvantages of marble such as staining, so we eventually settled on Silestone, which has a slightly textured feel. As our kitchen is north facing, we knew we also didn't want to go down the black granite route.'

The flooring and lighting were chosen independently by Rachel and Stephen, however, they worked closely with Mia O'Loughlin from Andrew Ryan Furniture to ensure the overall colour scheme of the kitchen was what they wanted.

From a design point of view, a key consideration in this kitchen was ensuring that the units lined up with the overhead roof windows. As the space the designer had to work with at the Aga was close fitting, pull-outs were designed to house the coffee machine and toaster.

Rachel concludes, 'I just love the cabinetry beside my dining table, and the fact that it looks like a big dresser. There is nothing that I would change. We both love the kitchen and are here almost 24/7, especially because of the Aga which makes it so cosy!'

Initial consultation to completion was nine months and no major problems were encountered as Andrew Ryan Furniture worked very closely with the couple to ensure everything ran smoothly. Once the basic concept and layout was agreed, certain changes were made to the overall design elements and how they worked together, to deliver the final impact in the kitchen. ✕



### Kitchen Contacts

#### KITCHEN DESIGN

**Andrew Ryan Furniture**  
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**Worktop:** Silestone

**Flooring:** Porcelain tile

#### APPLIANCES

**Range cooker:** Aga with gas hob

**Fridge-freezer:** Gaggenau

**Oven:** Siemens Combi Pryo Clean

**Hob:** Siemens

**Wine Cooler (in utility room):** Liebherr

**Dishwasher:** Siemens

**Extractor:** Britannia

**Waste Disposal Unit:** ISE

