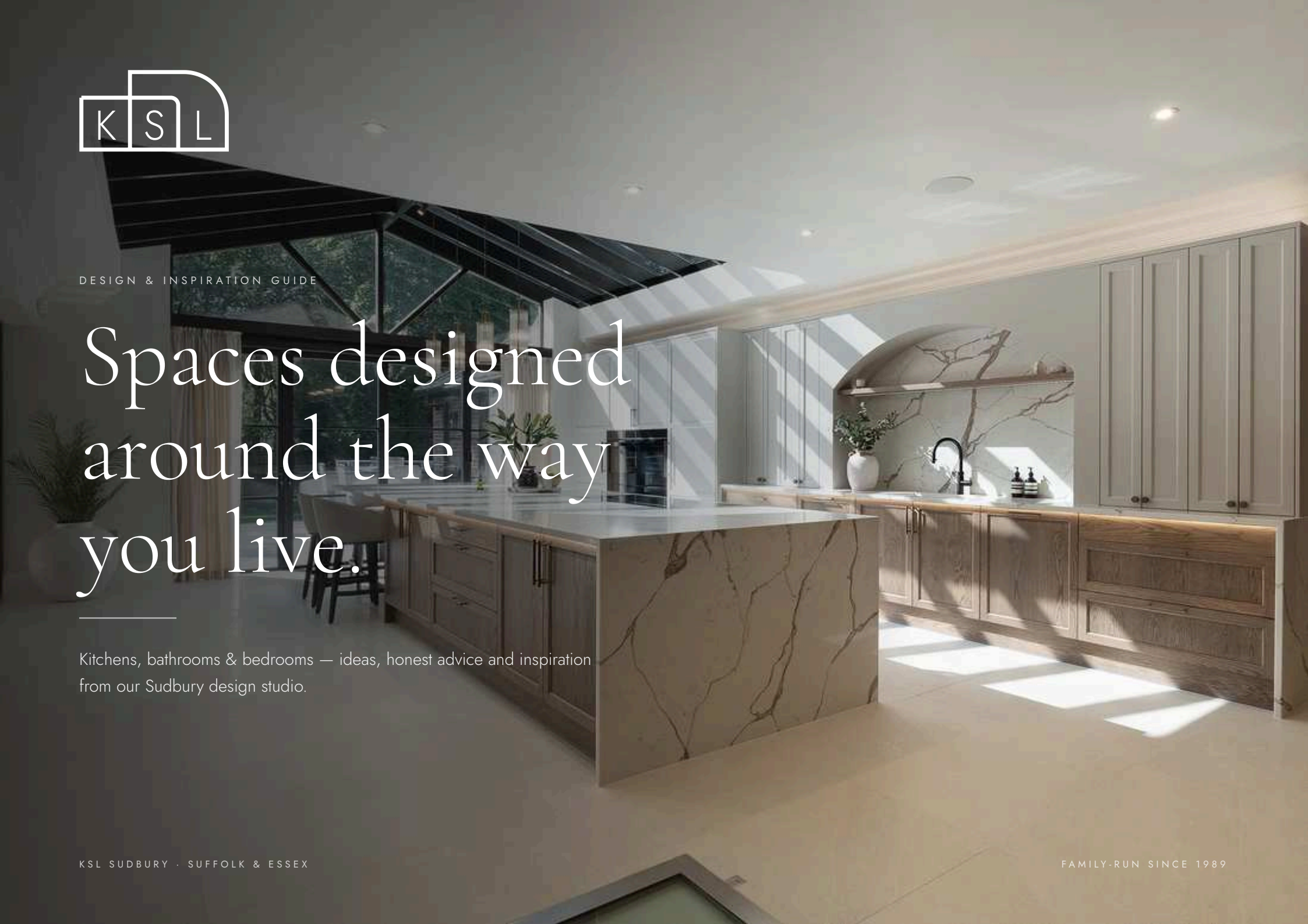

DESIGN & INSPIRATION GUIDE

Spaces designed around the way you live.

Kitchens, bathrooms & bedrooms — ideas, honest advice and inspiration from our Sudbury design studio.

KSL SUDBURY · SUFFOLK & ESSEX

FAMILY-RUN SINCE 1989

WELCOME

A little inspiration, a lot of experience.

Whether you are saving pictures and wondering what is possible, or you are ready to start planning, this guide is for you.

Inside you will find the ideas, practical tips and hard-won lessons of more than thirty years spent designing and fitting kitchens, bathrooms and bedrooms across Suffolk and Essex. Use it to gather your thoughts, scribble on it, fold the corners down — then bring it with you to the showroom. That is where the fun really starts.

— The team at KSL

30+
YEARS OF DESIGN

100S
HAPPY HOMES

1
TEAM, START TO FINISH



INSIDE

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Four displays and a belief in good design.

In August 1989 our family opened a small kitchen showroom in Sudbury with just four displays and an unshakeable belief in what we could design.

The economy was tough, but word spread quickly. Before long we were creating bespoke kitchens for homes across Suffolk, Essex and Cambridgeshire — and making sure every customer actually enjoyed the process, which mattered to us just as much.

KSL is still family-run today. The business has passed from one generation to the next, and much of what we know was learned the old-fashioned way: on site, alongside the fitters, seeing first-hand what makes a room work and what makes it last.

1989
First showroom opens in Sudbury

1999
We expand to bring in bathrooms

2006
Move to Church Field Business Park

Today
A whole-home design studio


NOW OPEN
the kitchen showroom ltd
New kitchens go on display
QUALITY KITCH
AT REALISTIC P
OPEN MONDAY—SATURDAY
FRIDAYS UNTIL 8 pm
0787 7825

FROM THE ARCHIVE: AN EARLY KSL ADVERT



"Everyone knows what they want from their home. Our job is to make it real — without you, we would be designing blind."

As demand grew we expanded the showroom to bring bathrooms into the range, and in 2006 we moved to our present home: a light, spacious showroom with room for our growing portfolio. Today we design kitchens, bathrooms and bedrooms alongside flooring, heating, lighting and audio-visual — and offices, living and entertaining spaces too.





THE STUDIO TODAY

Led by designers, not salespeople.



REBECCA · HEAD DESIGNER

Our design studio is headed by Head Designer Rebecca, who joined KSL in 2010 straight from studying Interior Design at University College Suffolk. She surveys clients' homes and guides every scheme — from the layout right down to furnishings and colour.

Her work has been recognised nationally by the KBSA, the trade association for independent kitchen, bathroom and bedroom specialists, with **Young Designer of the Year** (2014) and **Bathroom Concept Designer of the Year** (2016).

"Designing someone's kitchen or bathroom is far more personal than commercial design — and a wonderful creative challenge, shaping each scheme around one family's taste."

REBECCA, HEAD DESIGNER

Around Rebecca is a close-knit team of designers, fitters and craftspeople. You will deal with the same familiar faces from your first visit to the day your room is finished.

HOW WE WORK

One studio, from first idea to the day it's finished.

No hand-offs, no gaps between trades. We design, supply and install — so there is always one team responsible for the result.



01

Design

A dedicated designer listens, visits and measures — then plans your room in full 3D so you can see exactly how it looks and works before anything is ordered.



02

Supply

Premium British and European cabinetry, appliances, stone and sanitaryware — chosen, ordered and coordinated by us so everything arrives when it should.



03

Install

Our own trusted fitters build it with care and on schedule, finished to the standard we would want in our own homes.

TOP TIP

What to bring to your consultation

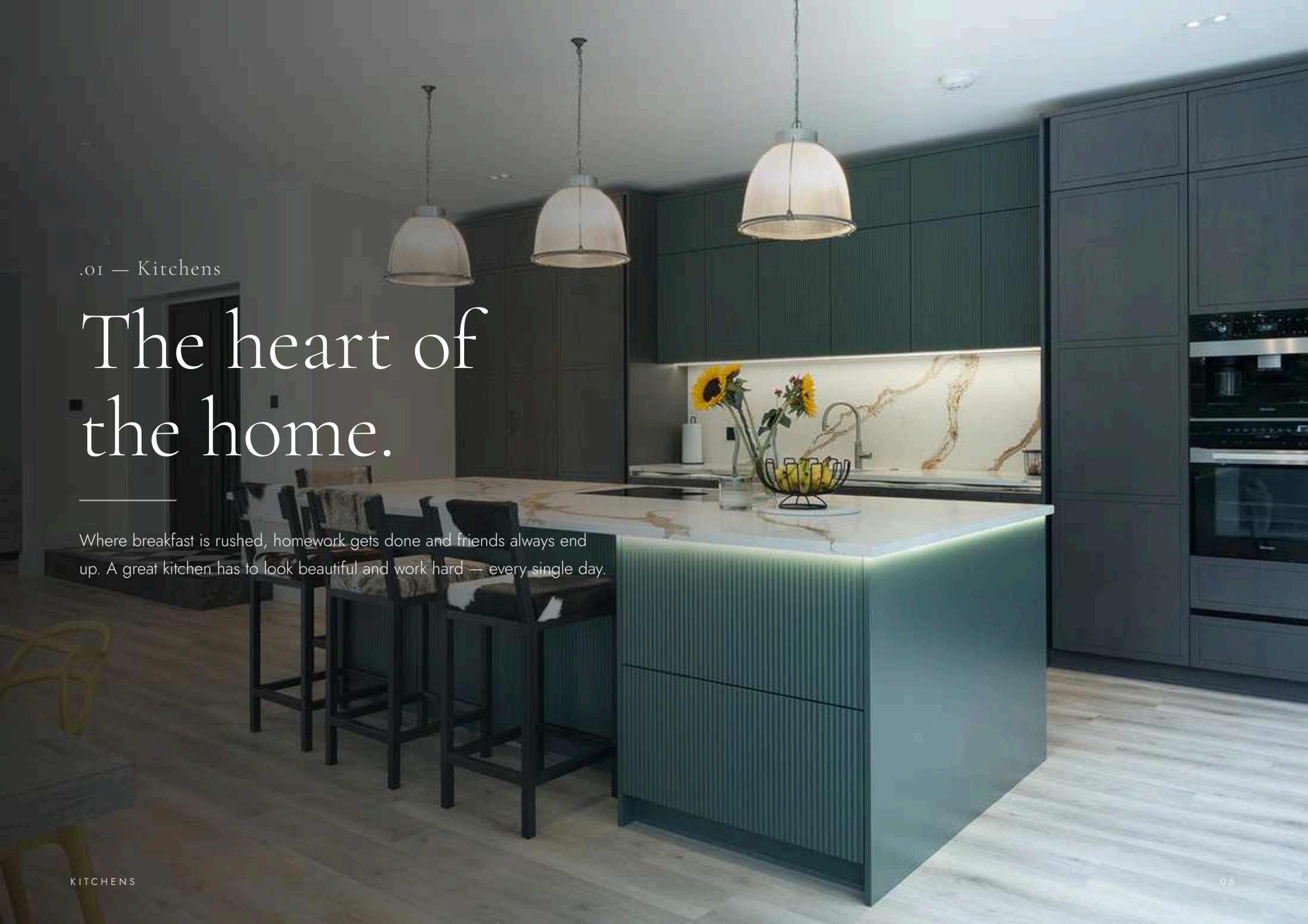
Rough measurements
plus photos of the room

Pictures you love
— and ones you don't

A wish list
of must-haves and nice-to-haves

A budget range
so we can plan honestly

Your timings
and any building work



.01 — Kitchens

The heart of the home.

Where breakfast is rushed, homework gets done and friends always end up. A great kitchen has to look beautiful and work hard — every single day.

FINDING YOUR STYLE

Three ways to fall in love.

We don't have a "house look". We offer a genuine breadth of styles and help you find the one that suits your home — and the way you live in it.



Contemporary

Clean lines, handleless rails, matt lacquers and rich timber veneers. Perfect for open-plan living, where the kitchen needs to sit calmly alongside the sofa and dining table.



Shaker

The framed door that never dates. Painted to order in almost any colour, it feels just as at home in a Suffolk cottage as in a new-build — with every modern convenience hidden behind it.



Classic & traditional

In-frame cabinetry, cornice, dressers and range cookers. Character and craftsmanship for period homes — or for anyone who loves a kitchen with a sense of history.

AND BESPOKE?

Bespoke means something different to everyone — a custom colour, an unusual size, one special piece or a kitchen drawn from scratch. Every kitchen we create is made to order, so whatever it means to you, we can make it real.



Six rules for a kitchen that works.

1 Think in zones

Group things by task — prepping, cooking, cleaning and storing — so everything you need is within a step or two, and two cooks never get in each other's way.

2 Give the island room

Allow at least 1 metre of walkway around an island, and closer to 1.2 metres where oven or dishwasher doors open or two people work side by side.

3 Plan landing space

Leave a good stretch of worktop either side of the hob — around 300mm minimum — and beside the fridge and ovens, so hot dishes and shopping always have somewhere to go.

4 Seat people comfortably

Allow roughly 600mm of width per stool and a 250–300mm overhang for knees. Stools against a breakfast bar are far more comfortable than you might expect.

5 Layer the lighting

Combine task lighting under wall units, ambient light from above and accent lighting in glass cabinets or plinths. Hang island pendants about 750–850mm above the worktop.

6 Decide on power early

Where will phones charge? Where does the coffee machine live? Planning sockets, boiling-water taps and appliances at design stage avoids trailing leads later.

Storage that earns its place.

The best kitchens look effortless because everything has a home. Clever storage is where good design really shows.

- **Swap cupboards for deep drawers.** Pans, plates and bowls are easier to reach from above than from the back of a cupboard.
- **Hide a drawer inside a drawer.** Internal drawers keep cutlery and utensils tidy without extra fronts.
- **Consider a larder or pantry.** Lit shelves, spice racks and room for small appliances keep worktops clear.
- **Make the corners work.** Clever pull-outs bring dead corner space back into use.
- **Store things where you use them** — knives by the chopping area, mugs by the kettle, bins by the sink.













DESIGN TIPS · APPLIANCES

The right appliances turn a beautiful kitchen into a brilliant one.

Many of our showroom displays have fully working appliances, so you can try before you choose.

1 **Cook the way you cook**

Start with how you actually use the kitchen, not the brochure. Keen bakers need different ovens from people who mostly stir-fry.

2 **Choose induction**

Fast, precise and easy to clean — and cooler to the touch, which is ideal for islands and busy family homes.

3 **Match extraction to layout**

A hood, a ceiling unit or a hob that extracts downwards — each suits a different space. Check the noise levels too.

4 **Raise ovens to eye level**

Tall housings mean no more bending to lift a roasting tin — and a combination steam or microwave oven above saves space.

PROJECT · ALDEBURGH, SUFFOLK

A coastal second home with a contemporary twist.

The brief. A holiday home that felt traditional yet fresh, with room to host family and friends — in a new extension flooded with light.

The design. Painted cabinetry in a soft dove grey, with a deep sea-blue island as a nod to the seaside. A 2.8-metre island combines a second oven, prep sink and bins with discreet seating for two, while lit glass cabinets on the dining side soften such a large piece of furniture.

The details. A hidden pantry in solid oak with sensor lighting, a separate "wet zone" beneath the window so washing-up never interrupts the cook, and quiet extraction tucked into the wall units.





Colour, texture and the joy of choosing.

1 **Try the 60 · 30 · 10 rule**

A main colour for most of the room, a second for around a third, and an accent for the final tenth — an island, a dresser or the handles.

2 **See samples in your own light**

North-facing rooms make colours cooler; south-facing rooms warm them up. Look at samples at home, morning and evening.

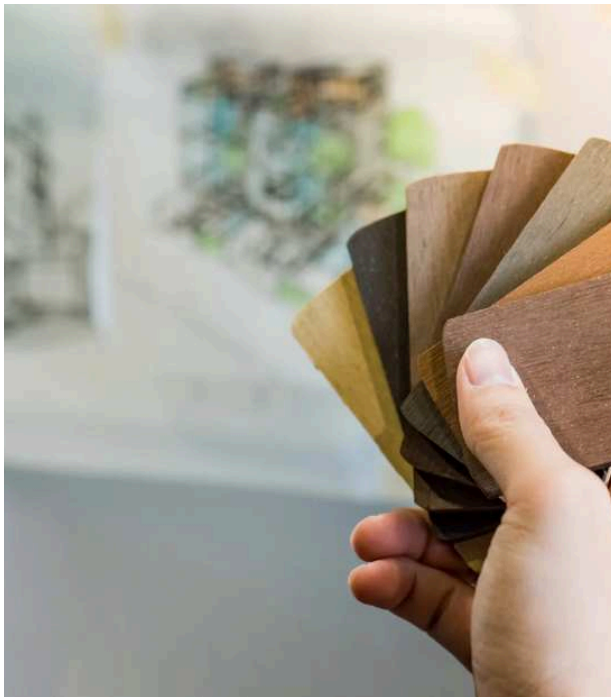
3 **Keep to three materials**

A cabinet finish, a worktop and one accent — timber, stone or metal — usually looks more considered than many competing finishes.

4 **Choose worktops for real life**

Quartz is tough and low-maintenance, granite naturally unique, solid surfaces seamless, and timber warm but needs a little love. We'll help you weigh it up.









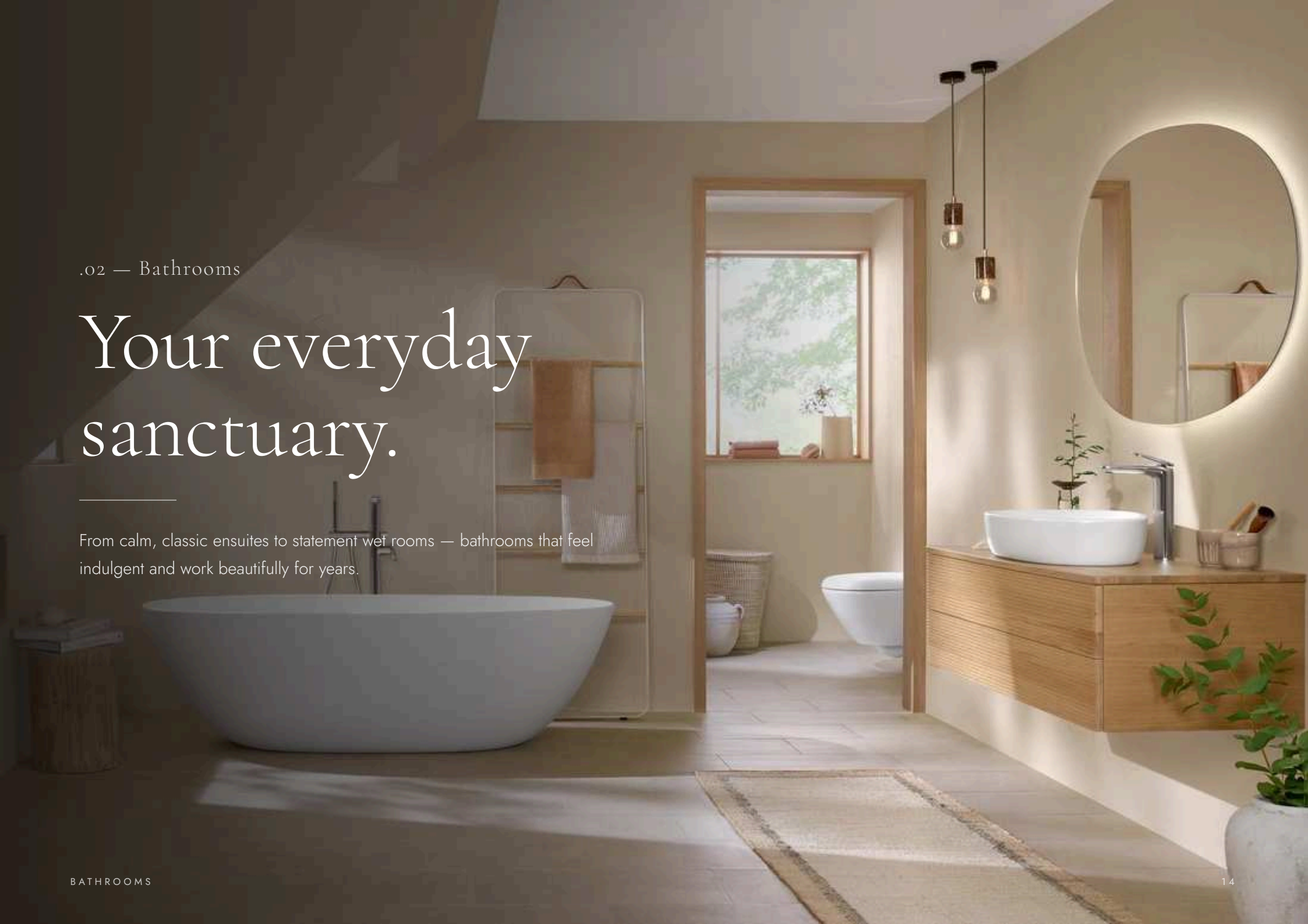
OUTDOOR KITCHENS

Take the heart of the home outside.

The best gatherings always end up around the food — so why keep the cooking indoors? We design outdoor kitchens built for real British weather.

PLANNING TIPS

- Choose weatherproof cabinetry, stainless steel and stone that will last.
- Keep it close to the house for easy trips to the fridge.
- Think about shelter, lighting and where the smoke will drift.
- Plan power, gas and water early — ideally before the patio goes down.



.02 — Bathrooms

Your everyday sanctuary.

From calm, classic ensuites to statement wet rooms — bathrooms that feel indulgent and work beautifully for years.

A bathroom with character.

Every bathroom we create is made to order — tailored to your space, your taste and the character of your home.



Contemporary

Wall-hung furniture, generous walk-in showers and natural textures. Calm, uncluttered and easy to keep clean.



Classic

Timeless shapes with a modern edge — panelled walls, rich colour and brushed-brass details for a bathroom with quiet confidence.



Traditional

Freestanding baths, pedestal basins and period detailing, chosen to sit beautifully in older homes and listed buildings.

Small changes, a big difference.

1 **Go wall-hung**
Seeing more floor makes any room feel bigger — and cleaning underneath becomes a two-second job.

2 **Fewer grout lines**
Large-format tiles look calmer and are easier to keep clean than lots of small ones.

3 **Plan niches early**
A recessed shelf in the shower is far neater than a caddy — but it has to be planned before tiling.

4 **Size the shower properly**
For a walk-in, aim for around 1200mm or more of length so the water stays where it should.

5 **Light for faces**
Light the mirror at face height, use correctly rated fittings near water and add a soft night-time glow.

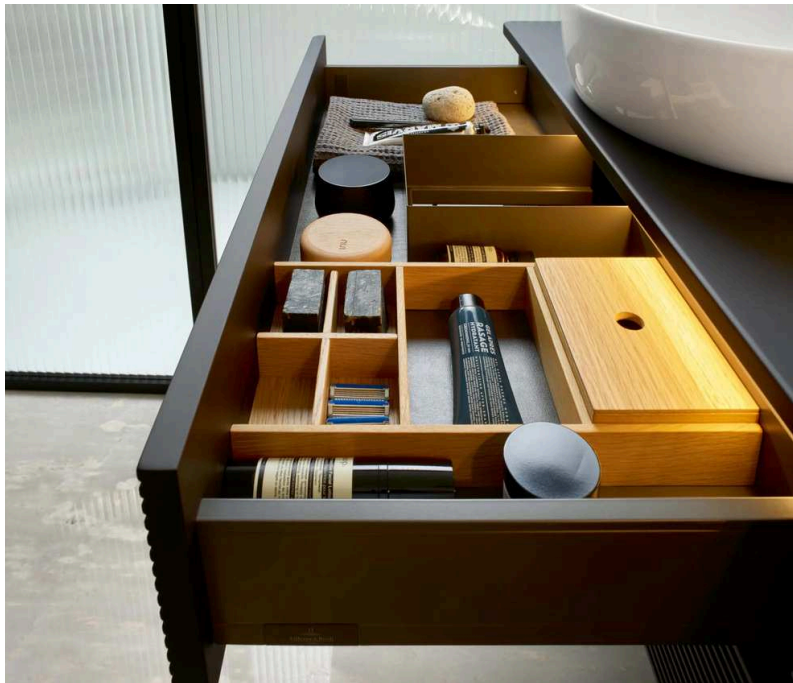
6 **Warmth & fresh air**
Underfloor heating, a heated towel rail and a quiet, effective extractor make a bathroom a joy in January.

THINKING ABOUT

A wet room?

Level-access showers look wonderful and are brilliant for every age — but the floor needs a gentle fall to the drain and full waterproofing beneath the tiles. It's exactly the kind of detail we plan from the very first survey.











PROJECT · TOPPESFIELD

A beautiful bathroom for a 17th-century home.

The brief. Having loved the shower room we created for them, our clients wanted the same simple, traditional feel carried into their main bathroom — with clean lines, a luxurious bath, and as many of the original beams kept as possible.

The challenge. Old walls and little room to change the layout. We levelled two and a half walls to hide pipework and give a true surface for tiling, then built out beneath the window, finishing it with a solid-surface top that runs seamlessly into the sill.

The result. Moving the WC behind the door made space for a statement slipper bath. A painted vanity echoes the shower room, matt white tiles keep it light, and hard-wearing wood-effect flooring adds warmth.

> “ **Designer's note:** in period homes, solid-surface tops on boxing and sills are much easier to keep clean than tiled ledges — a small detail that makes a big difference every day.



DESIGN TIPS · THE DETAILS

It’s all in the details.

The taps and showers you reach for every day deserve real attention. Beautifully finished brassware adds a touch of indulgence — and good quality keeps performing for years.

- **Pick one metal finish** — chrome, nickel, brushed brass or matt black — and carry it through taps, shower, towel rail and accessories.
- **Thermostatic or digital?** Both hold a steady temperature; digital adds presets and simple controls.
- **Tell us about your boiler.** Your water system affects which showers will perform best.
- **Touch before you buy.** Weight, feel and finish are hard to judge from a photo.







.03 — Bedrooms

Calm, ordered, made to measure.

Fitted bedrooms and dressing rooms that make the most of every wall, alcove and ceiling line — finished to the same standard as our kitchens.

Every inch considered.

1 Mind the depth

Allow around 600mm inside a wardrobe for hanging, so shirts and coats don't catch on the doors.

2 Mix hanging heights

Double rails for shirts and jackets, long hanging for coats and dresses — most people need far more short hanging than they think.

3 Go floor to ceiling

Full-height furniture looks built-in and gives you a home for suitcases and seasonal clothes up top.

4 Choose doors for the room

Hinged doors need space to swing; sliding doors are ideal where the bed or walkway is tight.

5 Light the inside

Sensor lighting that comes on as the door opens makes dark colours easy to tell apart on winter mornings.

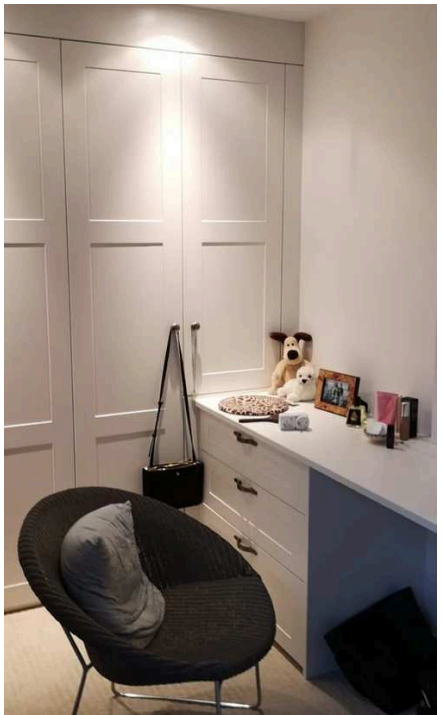
6 Love the awkward bits

Sloping ceilings, chimney breasts and loft rooms are where made-to-measure furniture really shines.

PROJECT · A 1970S FAMILY HOME

Practical, contemporary fitted wardrobes with a built-in dressing table — designed around the room's proportions to give our clients more storage than they had space for before.







Why we sell what we sell.

We don't stock everything — and that's the point. Every range in our showroom has earned its place, and we only recommend what we would happily put in our own homes.

Built to last

Solid cabinet construction, quality hinges and runners, soft-close as standard and finishes that stand up to family life.

Makers with heritage

We work with established British and German manufacturers and leading European bathroom brands with decades of craftsmanship behind them.

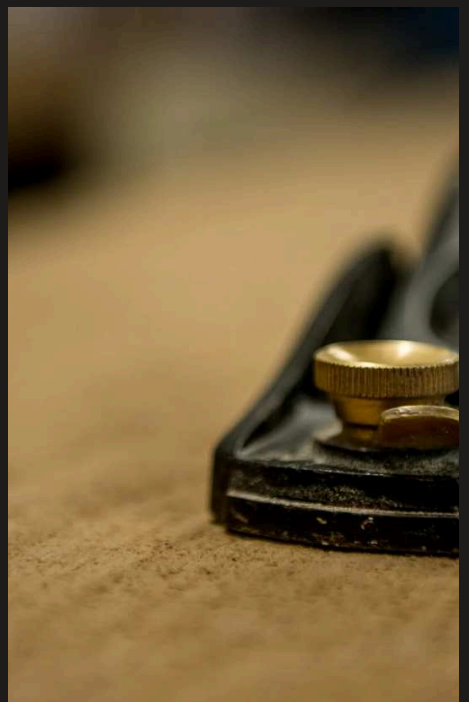
Honest value

Ranges across a spread of budgets, so we can recommend what's right for you — not simply the most expensive option.

Support for years

Strong guarantees, available spares and suppliers who stand behind their products long after installation.













INSTALLATION

From first sketch to final fitting.

A beautiful design is only as good as its installation. Our own experienced fitters — supported by trusted plumbers, electricians, plasterers and tilers — are coordinated by us, so you have one point of contact from start to finish.

01 Consultation

A relaxed chat in the showroom about your ideas, home and budget.

02 Survey

We measure precisely and check walls, services and access.

03 Design & quote

3D plans and a fully detailed, itemised quotation — no surprises.

04 Order & schedule

We order everything and agree a clear timetable with you.

05 Preparation

Careful strip-out, then plumbing, electrics and plastering.

06 Installation

Our fitters build your room, protecting your home as they go.

07 Finishing

Worktops templated and fitted, tiling and the final details.

08 Handover

A walk-through of your new room — and aftercare whenever you need us.

AFTERCARE

We're still here when you need us.

A question, an adjustment or a new idea years later — just get in touch.

"Very well organised, with a great team of professional installers — plumbers, electricians, painters and plasterers. We enjoyed their time in our house."

NIGE C · GOOGLE REVIEW

A big investment, in safe hands.

KBSA members

Vetted and trusted

We are proud members of the KBSA, the trade association for independent kitchen, bathroom and bedroom specialists. Every member is vetted for financial stability, high standards and a personal service — and our designers have been recognised at its national awards.

TrustMark registered

Guaranteed workmanship

TrustMark is the UK's only Government Endorsed Quality Scheme for work in and around the home. Our workmanship comes with a minimum two-year guarantee on top of your product warranties, plus financial protection and an independent route if anything ever goes wrong.

Flexible finance

Spread the cost

Complete your project in full, exactly as designed, with fixed monthly payments over 5, 7 or 10 years at **10.9% APR representative**. Minimum spend £1,000, deposits up to 50%.

Representative example: amount of credit £15,000 repayable by 60 monthly payments of £321.67. Total amount payable £19,299.96. Interest rate 10.9% fixed. 10.9% APR representative. Finance is subject to status and affordability. Terms and conditions apply.

"They took us through the whole design process, making suggestions throughout. The installation was straightforward and hassle-free."

ANDY ARIS

"Amazing attention to detail and an installation team second to none — the result was spectacular."

JAMES PEPPER

VISIT THE SHOWROOM

Let's design your space.

Come and see the finishes in person over a cup of good coffee, or book a free, no-obligation design consultation with one of our specialists.

BOOK YOUR FREE DESIGN CONSULTATION

FIND US

KSL Sudbury
3 Church Field Business Park
Church Field Road
Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 2YF

OPENING TIMES

Monday – Friday: 9am – 5pm
Saturday: by appointment

Drop-ins welcome — just ring the bell.

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ONLINE

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KITCHENS · BATHROOMS · BEDROOMS

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