

Telford at Roundhouse points out a useful function of a storage-focused island. 'By providing extra cupboard space, they can eliminate the need for wall-mounted cabinets.' This is ideal for creating a feeling of space in a small room.

Dine in style

Islands can easily be extended to create a dining area, whether you're looking for an informal breakfast bar or a more formal table design. Breakfast bars can be formed by creating an overhanging stretch of work surface or with a raised bar section, often in glass for contrast. Make sure that it's well supported and discreetly fixed. If you do opt for a glass bar, it's

worth considering that these usually take about four weeks to produce from template to installation.

'In our experience, island dining extensions are generally used for the more casual approach and are less flexible than the traditional dining table,' explains Jim Gettings. 'However, they do create a more flowing design that seems to give the dining area greater emphasis.'

If you are having a simple worktop extension to act as a breakfast bar, make sure it's the correct height to sit on a stool. Likewise with a formal dining area that requires chairs – the surface will need to be at table height, so either opt to have two levels to the island or set all of it at a reduced height. **BK**

CONCEPT ISLANDS

STRIKE A BALANCE

If money is no object, you could include Tipping Point, a sculptural island made from stainless steel, reclaimed teak and glass. Appearing to defy gravity, one arc houses an integrated curved sink, drainer and dishwasher, while the other has a heatproof glass cooking surface with induction hob. Both sides include curved walnut storage drawers. Prices start at £100,000 from SplinterWorks

STORAGE ISLANDS

Islands can really pack in drawers, cupboards and pull-outs. There's also the option of spice drawers, baskets for vegetables, drawers with plate racks, bottle holders and wire shelves. You could even house a heavy food processor in a cupboard with a lift-up shelf.

VERY VERSATILE

The Chichester range from Neptune is shown painted in Limestone with an island featuring adjustable shelving and wine racks either side. Kitchens start at £8,000

BLUE SKY THINKING

This curved island from John Lewis's Leckford range includes deep drawers, cupboards, pull-outs, a wine rack and open shelving. Shown in Sky and Linen. From £10,000



OPEN ENDED

These twin islands in Poggenpohl's teak decor kitchen in Lava feature built-in open shelving that's perfect for storing pots, pans and crockery. A complete kitchen starts from £25,000

EXPERT TIP

'DON'T RULE OUT AN ISLAND IF SPACE IS NARROW, JUST ENSURE ESSENTIALS ARE ON THE RIGHT SIDE' SIMON BRAY, MD, SIMON BRAY FURNITURE