

AWARD WINNING

UTOPIA

# KITCHEN & BATHROOM

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## THE owners

Kris Beckers is a Belgian fruit farmer, one of the first to grow the Kanzi apple commercially. He also runs a successful agricultural consultancy, farm machinery dealership and fruit-packing company. Kris is a bachelor and spends a lot of his time staying in up-market hotels around the world.

# FRUITFUL LABOUR

A Belgian farmer wanted a total refit of his 1970s farmhouse to bring it up to luxury hotel standard

The big American-style fridge was much deeper than the other appliances and cabinets, so in the end a niche was built to inset it slightly into the wall so it would be flush and streamlined



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hen Belgian fruit farmer Kris Beckers bought a 1970s farmhouse in desperate need of updating he turned to Mila Podiablonska of Absolute Interior Decor to make the transformation.

*What is the property like?*

**Mila:** "It's a 1970s detached Belgian farmhouse with rural views to the rear, surrounded by apple trees and fields with horses. We worked with a local architect to extend the rear wall outwards to create space for a larger kitchen. A new 14m-long floor-to-ceiling glass wall now runs the length of the kitchen to improve the natural light and frame a spectacular view."

*What was the kitchen brief?*

**Kris:** "I wanted a big refrigerator with an ice dispenser, a kitchen island, an induction hob and a proper coffee machine, but I found it

difficult to decide on a style, which is why I decided to use an interior designer."

**Mila:** "Kris left most of it up to me to design. I knew he had a passion for quality, liked order and could not stand clutter. He also liked natural stone because of its practicality."

*What were the design challenges?*

**Mila:** "The big fridge was a challenge to integrate with the rest of the kitchen cabinets in a streamlined way as it was 150mm deeper than the other appliances and units. We solved the issue by building a special niche in the wall."

*Are you pleased with the result?*

**Kris:** "The kitchen island is my favourite part. It is covered with beautiful quartz and is comfortable and practical to use. Plus, while working there you have a tremendous view of my land and orchards."

Glossy white cabinetry was chosen to give a contemporary look and to work well with the extensive views over the fruit farm. The kitchen itself had to be organised so as not to interfere with the floor-to-ceiling glass of the kitchen extension





*What was the inspiration for the bathroom?*

**Mila:** “When it came to deciding on the look, we followed the functional, natural concept that we used throughout the house. I aimed to create a Zen-like calming and relaxing feel with a freestanding bath in the middle of the room, making the most of the natural, diffused light from the large bathroom window. The dark, seemingly floating cupboard and the sink lead the eye straight to the freestanding egg-shaped bath, Japanese-style panels and a walk-in shower with the brown marble wall in the back.”

*Tell us about the lighting*

**Kris:** “I love the floor-recessed spotlights in front of the bath as they produce a very relaxing light.”  
**Mila:** “A good bathroom lighting scheme creates energy with the bright morning light and a relaxing, soft mood at night. Here, the floor-level lighting highlights the bath while the ceiling lighting washes over the marble wall at the back of the shower creating a sense of a serene sanctuary. A touchscreen panel or iPad app controls the heating system and the lights.”

*What are you most pleased with?*

**Mila:** “I am very pleased with the overall look, the right choice of marble and tile and the final simplicity of the room.”

## THE details

Interior design of kitchen and bathroom by Mila Podiablonska, director, Absolute Interior Decor [absoluteinteriordecor.com](http://absoluteinteriordecor.com)

### Kitchen

Realisation of kitchen design by Sander van de Pol, manager, Kvik kitchens, Genk, including Kvik Bianco cabinetry in white, high-gloss, foil-covered mdf and Diresco engineered quartz worktop [kvik.com/en](http://kvik.com/en)

Siemens LI48932 iQ700 telescopic extractor, EH875FM27E iQ500 induction hob, HB33CB550 Universele PLUS single oven, HF35M562 iQ500 compact microwave, KS36WPI30 iQ700 fridge, TE712201RW coffee machine, SX76V090EU dishwasher [siemens-home.co.uk](http://siemens-home.co.uk)

Franke MMX 211 Mythos stainless steel sink [franke.co.uk](http://franke.co.uk)

Grohe Minta tap [grohe.com/uk](http://grohe.com/uk)

Schiffeleers bespoke mirrored splashback [schiffeleers-glas.be](http://schiffeleers-glas.be)

Coach House SX76V090EU Leather and metal wine rack, LHS036 pendant lights [coachhouse.com](http://coachhouse.com)

Fancy Soho bar stools, Valencia oval table and John dining chairs [fancyhomecollection.com](http://fancyhomecollection.com)

### Bathroom

Kvik Mano Sera bathroom cabinetry in black oak veneer, Trogmodel basin as before

Beter Bad Britt bath, Easy Tray shower tray [beterbadsanitair.nl](http://beterbadsanitair.nl)

Grohe Allure bath taps, basin taps, Rain shower as before

Jaga Nautica and Aristocrat nickel radiators [jaga.co.uk](http://jaga.co.uk)

The bathroom has been given a feeling of Zen-like tranquillity with the help of a generously sized freestanding bath and dark wood panelling. The walk-in shower has a luxurious, masculine feel thanks to a feature panel of brown marble

