

ELF Miniatures

KITCHENS – OPENING OR FIXED?

We make our bespoke kitchens and our kitchen kits both in opening and fixed versions. So what are the pros and cons of each?

Firstly of course, opening doors are “fun”. We all enjoy trying the doors, and marvel when they open to reveal a myriad of tiny treasures...or more often than not, an empty space! Finding things to fill the cupboards and drawers can give hours of enjoyment to an avid collector, but filling those empty spaces can also prove quite costly, and some may prefer not to spend money on things that will rarely be seen.

So, if we don't fill all those empty cupboards, is it really so important that they open? Opening units, whilst seeming to most closely resemble the “real thing” do have some technical limitations. The handles must be resilient enough to withstand the constant opening and closing. Hinging too presents a series of constraints that mean the miniature cannot replicate precisely its full-sized counterpart. Fixed doors eliminate those problems, and give a totally smooth sleek line, resembling more closely the appearance, if not the function, of the full-sized article.

When it comes to construction, there is self-evidently much more work involved in making opening doors, constructing drawers, fitting out ovens with realistic interiors, etc. In a bespoke kitchen, this extra work results in higher costs, because the time involved has to be calculated. Fixed doors represent a saving in time, and therefore money, and when it comes to kits, may also present less of a challenge to those who may not have much experience in working with wood.

Both systems have their merits and limitations, and each collector must decide which of these is most important to them when making their choice between opening and fixed units. In either case, kitchens offer a wealth of possibilities when it comes to completing them with miniature accessories, and with open shelving, and ample worktops, you will never lack the space to show off your favourite treasures.

With thanks to Lynne Waterfield

