

Press release

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Mark Taylor Design champions the future of kitchen design with a scholarship on degree course



Mark Taylor Design trainee designer Ben Paddon, left, with Mark Taylor, right, inside their design studio in Buckinghamshire

The prestigious British furniture manufacturer and interiors design business Mark Taylor Design is helping raise standards in the kitchen industry while supporting budding designers with the provision of a scholarship in conjunction with TKET* for a student on the Foundation Degree Course in Kitchen Design at Buckinghamshire New University.

As well as co-sponsoring student Ben Paddon's course fees, Mark Taylor Design has also employed him as a trainee designer at its Buckinghamshire HQ, where he works closely with the team three days a week alongside his studies. Qualified engineer Ben, who already has a BA in Furniture Design and Craft, was able to join the second year of the three-year, distance-learning course in September due to his existing qualifications and experience.

The industry-led course aims to enhance the skills and prospects of those working in the kitchen sector. As well as lectures using Skype, the work-related degree also includes three intensive residential workshops per year at the university's Missenden Abbey Conference Centre, where industry experts share and discuss different projects to help students understand some of the changing demands and challenges of kitchen design whilst teaching them how to approach design from a well rounded perspective, which can then be applied to kitchens.

Founded in 1996, Mark Taylor Design is renowned for designing and creating distinctive, bespoke furniture and joinery so is perfectly placed to mentor Ben through the course and help him hone his skills in luxury kitchen design. Last year, the company also launched an interior design and sourcing division and now offers a complete project management service for clients.

Mark Taylor says: “We’re delighted to be championing the kitchen industry’s quest to raise standards among the next generation of designers by working with Ben and supporting him through his degree. All the team at Mark Taylor Design are relishing the opportunity to share our unprecedented knowledge and experience of creating bespoke furniture and interiors with him. In turn, he brings some great ideas to us.”

TKET chairman Craig Matson adds: “Ben has a great background with the type of skills the kitchen industry requires. Helping put him through the course enables him to transition into his role at Mark Taylor Design and also gives him a solid foundation from which to build a career in the industry.”

Ben, will graduate in 2018 and work for Mark Taylor Design as a qualified designer, says he is thoroughly enjoying applying what he is learning on the course to the projects he is working on with the team at Mark Taylor Design: “I really enjoy creative problem solving and the course really encourages you to look further at ways in which design is constantly changing and evolving so that it works alongside the time we live in.”

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Notes to editors:

- For further information, contact Mark Taylor Design on 01628 486707, email mtd@marktaylordesign.co.uk or visit www.marktaylordesign.co.uk
- Mark Taylor Design creates extraordinary spaces providing bespoke furniture, cabinetry, specialist joinery and interior design.
- Mark Taylor Design balances functional planning with beautiful, inspirational design, creating unique rooms using the most exciting and innovative materials and finishes.
- They were recently shortlisted for the Living Space – UK award in the *design et al* International Design & Architecture Awards 2017 for the transformation of a living space into a stunning, bespoke Art Deco-inspired bar and relaxing room.
- Mark is the driving creative force behind Mark Taylor Design with more than 30 years’ interior, furniture design and manufacturing experience.
- Mark Taylor Design work out of their design studio in Buckinghamshire supported by their workshops in Wiltshire and Oxfordshire. They take on projects nationwide.
- The Kitchen Education Trust (TKET) is a registered charity that acts as an intermediary for the kitchen sector in the award of scholarships to successful applicants to attend the Foundation Degree in Kitchen Design at Buckinghamshire New University.

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