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On the cover



This issue's star kitchen combines colour, contrast and texture, creating a classic look with a contemporary edge. See page 50.

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Chic accessories
with an urban edge



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THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A FEW RAYS OF sunshine to make you really appreciate a modern approach to kitchen living, especially when that room opens onto the garden. For me, the best time is a relaxed weekend breakfast accompanied by a gentle breeze and the sound of birdsong, but the set-up is also brilliant in the evening when we're entertaining. How in tune this design is to today's lifestyles is clear to see in the case studies we've chosen for this issue.

Donna and Richard Barber transformed the ground floor of their Essex home to improve flow and offer full-width access to the garden (page 57), while Leo Haynes brought light, sunshine and classic French charm to a reconfigured area with garden views (page 21). Reinventing existing space is a theme in this issue – our planning guide is all about great layouts (page 70) and we're also finding room for utility (page 44). But we've snuck our way into a new room in this issue with a special bathroom section (page 117). While thinking big for a kitchen, it pays to think big for your bathroom, too, as they share essential services such as plumbing and drainage, plus alterations to lighting, power and heating. We hope you enjoy this one-off, and remember you can find us online at theROOMedit.com and housetohome.co.uk with great ideas for all your rooms, as well as all things kitchens at kitchensourcebook.co.uk.

Helen

HELEN STONE EDITOR

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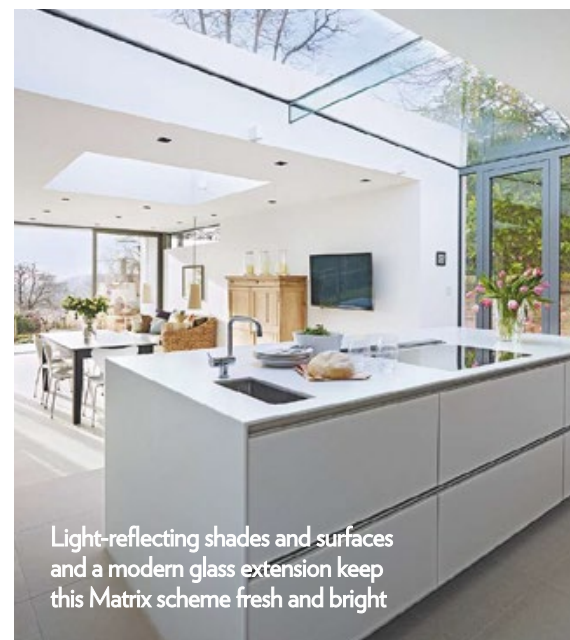
This former barn has been transformed into an airy, light-filled kitchen by its imaginative owners and bespoke kitchen company Richard Baker Furniture. The Edwardian-style cabinetry is painted in Farrow & Ball's Manor House Gray. Kitchens from £30,000

GETTING STARTED

Buying a new kitchen can be a daunting prospect. From choosing the right style to finding a designer and developing a layout, there's a lot to take on board. Breaking it into small, manageable steps will make the process easier – consider it a journey, and give each stage all the time and care it needs

1 **LOOK AT THE SPACE**
Do you simply want a place to prepare meals, or are you after an open-plan living area with enough room for a dining zone, and perhaps a snug, too? Is entertaining at the top of your list, or do you mainly use the space to rustle up family meals? How much storage do you need? Have a good clear-out and get rid of anything you no longer use – be ruthless. Also, note down which aspects of your current kitchen work for you and those that don't.

2 **MAKE A WISH LIST**
Nail those must-haves; whether it's sleek Corian worktops, plenty of storage, or a statement island, have a clear idea of what you want. What type of cooker are you after, and with which functions? Which other appliances can't you live without? Make sure you've really got to grips with what you need and want before you even set foot in the showroom. The more information you can give, the better your design will be.



Light-reflecting shades and surfaces and a modern glass extension keep this Matrix scheme fresh and bright

3 **THE FUN PART**
Collect images that inspire you. Tear pages from magazines, scour kitchen company websites and use sharing sites such as Pinterest. Treasured objects, well-loved artworks or favourite pieces of furniture can be a great starting point for a theme or colour scheme. Don't worry about what you can and can't afford at this stage – it's all about honing your style. Visuals are an easy way to share ideas with your family and kitchen designer.

4 **FIND A GOOD KITCHEN COMPANY**
Flicking through magazines is a great way to find kitchen companies working across all budgets. Look at designer/retailer websites, too, as most have portfolios of previous projects – you'll find a handy list on our blog, KitchenSourcebook.co.uk. And, of course, pop into nearby showrooms. Word of mouth is still a great way to find a reliable company, with the certainty that the service has lived up to expectation.

5 **DESIGNER TOUCH**
To get the best from your new kitchen, call in a professional, be that a kitchen designer, interior designer or architect. Never underestimate what a trained eye can bring. As well as years of experience, ideas and know-how, they'll be able to offer solutions you won't have thought of. Add to this up-to-date knowledge of products, fixtures and fittings, plus the ability to source everything on your behalf, often getting good deals.

6 **SET YOUR BUDGET**
Be honest about your finances from the outset so that your designer can gauge where to invest and where to save. Ways to make a small budget stretch further include open shelving and generous pull-out storage – both cut down on the number of units you need to buy. When it comes to appliances, think about what you really use, and don't forget to budget for professional services such as a Gas Safe fitter, electrician or a tiler.

7 **ENJOY THE PROCESS**
Once you've chosen your kitchen and found a designer who shares your vision, you're well on the way to creating a dream kitchen, so enjoy the next phase of fine-tuning the design. Most companies produce CAD drawings, which give a good idea of how the design will look, and this is the time to discuss worktops, sinks, taps, splashbacks and flooring. Proficient designers will be able to help with ideas for materials beyond the cabinetry.

8 **FITTING AND SERVICES**
Shoddy workmanship can ruin a kitchen but decent installation will ensure even inexpensive units look amazing. Ask friends and family for recommendations, or go through a registered trade association, such as the Federation of Master Builders (fmb.org.uk). Larger projects may require planning permission or building regulations approval. Visit the website planningportal.gov.uk for useful advice.

**'A GOOD DESIGNER
WILL FULFIL THE
POTENTIAL OF
YOUR KITCHEN AND
ENSURE THE LAYOUT
WORKS PERFECTLY'**

9 **COUNTDOWN TO COMPLETION**
Unfortunately, refitting such an important part of your home comes with a certain amount of upheaval. A professional kitchen company will ensure the process is quick and as painless as possible, but it's worth having a contingency plan. Set up a basic cook station along with vital provisions elsewhere in the house. Plan to be away for the most disruptive stages, and try to relax and look forward to what's to come.

10 **FINISHING TOUCHES**
The final additions are what make your kitchen your own. Add in an accent colour via striking accessories, subtly linking finishes – for instance, pair a timber breakfast bar with wooden stools, or upholster the seats with fabric that ties in with your splashback. Little details, such as your choice of handles, and artworks on the walls, can transform a scheme and add real personality.

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224450, anglepoise.com



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Albert, dashandalbert.annieselke.com



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Hudson table, H73 x W250 x D115cm,
£1,395, Neptune, 01793 427427, neptune.com



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Bartolomew cocktail
chair in Ink, H70 x W55
x D55cm, £675,
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07972 129694,
galapagosdesigns.com



Industrial-style storage.
Chook shelf,
H32 x W75 x D22cm,
£115, Loaf, 0845 468
0698, loaf.com

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HERITAGE DESIGN

Storage has always figured strongly for modern kitchen company Siematic, but it's good to see a nod to its roots as a kitchen dresser company with its newest addition, the 29 sideboard. This modern freestanding piece is available in the company's full ColourSystem of 1,950 shades, plus a range of wood finishes, and can be a showpiece or incorporate appliances to form a workstation. Kitchens from £30,000, siematic.com



CONCRETE FINISH

Utilising the material of the moment, German kitchen manufacturer Leicht has introduced a stylish new concrete scheme to its sleek portfolio. Fine concrete is sprayed onto lacquered MDF bases, creating a durable yet lightweight finish that adds a cool industrial edge. Available in three colourways, the range starts at £15,000, leicht.com



PURE FLOW

The Kinetico Kube is an efficient water-filtering system that's easy to fit to your existing tap. It's non-electrical and measures a neat 16 x 47 x 33cm that fits under the sink. The system removes more impurities than a filter jug, the cartridge lasts 40-times longer and offers water on tap. Priced at £279. Kinetico, 0808 102 1406, kinetico.co.uk

The new classic

The recently completed McCarron & Co studio in London's Fulham shows the company's bespoke furniture in realistic room sets – the Brompton is shown here. Kitchens from around £25,000. McCarron & Co, 84 Fulham Road, London SW3 6HR, 0207 584 5736 mccarronandco.com



SWEEPING STATEMENT

The new Nevada range by Masterclass Kitchens is available in 15 finishes. This curved layout will work for sociable cooks but it can also be family-friendly, steering children away from hot spots and ensuring there are no sharp edges. Kitchens from around £7,500, 01443 449499, masterclasskitchens.co.uk



FEATURE SALLY DOMINIC, MAXINE CLARKE, ALIX O'NEILL, JENNIE FILER



Happy home

While planning the look of your new kitchen, take time to consider the mood, too. Stylist Amanda Talbot's new book is all about putting some joy into interiors and is packed with ideas on how to create a positive home. *Happy: Creating Joyous Living Spaces Through Design*, £25, is published by Murdoch Books. Buy at the special price of £20, including free p&p, by calling 01256 329242 and quoting DJ5



RATIONAL APPROACH

The Cadre kitchen collection by Rational is full of all kinds of clever storage, including extra-wide 180cm drawers, a Linero rail system that stores cooking essentials above the hob, and a pull-out worktop for extra prep space just where you want it. Available in seven veneers and 21 finishes, from around £10,000, 01543 459459, rational.de/en



SOLID CHARM

Humphrey Munson has a new showroom in St Albans. Set in a 16th-century grade II listed space, the company's latest handcrafted kitchens are Markham, featuring traditional solid oak pieces in a choice of natural, dark or grey oak finishes, and Spenlow, which combines American walnut and painted cabinetry. You can also see classic designs such as the Nickelby (shown). Kitchens from £30,000. 13 Holywell Hill, St Albans AL1 1EZ, 01727 519444, humphreymunson.co.uk

ON THE TILES

We've been loving Bert & May's weathered concrete tiles for some time, and it's great to see a more resilient glazed range join the collection. Perfect for easy-care splashbacks, the geometric designs include the Churriana tile (shown), and are available in a smooth or rustic finish. Measuring 14.5cm sq, they cost £324sq m, 020 3673 4264, bertandmay.com



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Style inside and out

The BlackSteel finish of Liebherr's SBSbs 7263 side-by-side fridge boasts an eye-catching aesthetic that helped it scoop an iF Design Award. But what's inside is just as impressive. Among its many features, BioFresh drawers promise optimal freshness, while a NoFrost freezer compartment aids speedier cooling. H185.5 x W121 x D63cm, from £2,999, also available in stainless steel. 01767 602221, liebherr.co.uk



LET IT SHINE

Keep guests guessing with the Cube, an extractor-cum-ceiling pendant by Best. It has a maximum extraction rate of 489 cubic metres per hour, four speed settings, a timer and remote control, plus built-in ambient lighting. Prices from £749, 0844 463 9705, besthoods.co.uk

WASH AND GO

Great for busy households, most of the programs on Fisher & Paykel's new WashSmart machines take less than an hour to complete, and we love the super-efficient 15-minute cycle for emergency washes. The A-rated, energy and water-efficient machines boast SmartDrive technology and are whisper-quiet, too. From £550, 08000 886601, fisherpaykel.com/uk



AMERICAN BEAUTY

California-based Lynx has brought its bespoke outdoor kitchens to the UK. Featuring five sizes of built-in and freestanding grills, plus a large-capacity smoking box, designs can also be equipped with fridges and ice machines, griddle plates, warming drawers and even a cocktail-making station. Integrated lighting makes it perfect for alfresco entertaining. From £2,625 at Bradshaw, 01275 343000, bradshaw.co.uk



Barista flair

Nespresso and KitchenAid have joined forces to produce a coffee machine that combines high performance with iconic design. Make an espresso, lungo or ristretto in just 25 seconds, or whip up a cappuccino with the optional milk frother. A stainless-steel heating element guarantees precise temperature control, while a 19-bar pressure pump produces maximum flavour. From £309 at John Lewis and Nespresso boutiques



SPOT ON

A multi-zone induction hob with a difference, Caple's pioneering C950i takes the shape of four discs that can be inset or flush-fitted to the worktop. They have all the latest features – 11 power levels, memory recall and pause option, child-safety lock and residual heat indicators, plus automatic safety shut-off, anti-overheat and anti-overflow. Priced from £1,845, 0117 938 1900, caple.co.uk

FEATURE SALLY DOMINIC, MAXINE CLARKE, ALIX O'NEILL



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Gallic CHARM

Only a truly bespoke scheme would help Leo Haynes achieve the sophisticated French kitchen she had long desired

Feature ALIX O'NEILL
Photography RICHARD GADSBY

In a row

These French-inspired bar stools, designed by Leo and made by Charlie Kingham, set the elegant tone for the rest of the kitchen



The image shows a spacious, bright kitchen with white cabinetry and a large white island. A large, ornate chandelier hangs from the ceiling. The island has a white countertop and a sink. In the background, there is a skylight and a wall with a framed picture. The floor is light-colored wood.

Project profile

THE OWNERS Leo Haynes, owner of nursery furniture and accessories shop Piccoli & Co, and her husband Max, who runs a fashion company

THEIR HOME A semi-detached Victorian house in southwest London

THE PROJECT An internal wall and some pillars were removed to

make way for a open-plan bespoke kitchen-diner

ROOM SIZE 7 x 3.6m

DESIGNER Charlie Kingham

CABINETRY Bespoke handpainted units by Charlie Kingham, £35,000

BUDGET Around £50,000

Light show

A glamorous addition to a kitchen scheme, this antique chandelier makes a dramatic statement



On fire

The stylish La Cornue range cooker not only enhances the overall design, it's perfect when hosting dinner parties



Raising the bar

Leo chose a sleek Carrara marble worktop, which brings a sense of occasion to breakfast time

It was a cute kitchen,' says Leo Haynes of the previous scheme in her Victorian home, 'but I wanted something grander.' Judging by the white and cream space furnished with French antiques, which replaced her Shaker-style design, Leo is a woman who gets what she wants. 'It took a few years to convince my husband, but eventually he agreed,' she laughs.

Originally from Tuscany, former antiques dealer Leo often travelled to Provence and fell for its chic yet relaxed interiors. As a result, she had a clear vision for her dream kitchen. 'I was after a French apothecary feel, but I also love the big white American designs. I wanted the sort of scheme you see in the movies, but with French-style cabinetry.'

Tasked with the challenge of creating such a unique scheme was bespoke kitchen designer

Charlie Kingham. Leo showed Charlie pictures from magazines, and insisted on an all-white palette to complement the rest of the house. 'It's very unusual to have a white kitchen,' she explains. 'But I wanted something different.'

While Charlie was working his magic, Leo scoured vintage and antiques shops, and reclamation yards for furniture that would do her scheme justice. For the glass cabinets, she salvaged metal parts from some French windows and asked Charlie to incorporate them into the cabinetry.

The project took several months to complete and Leo is delighted with the result. 'The layout is a lot better than before,' she says. 'It's the same size, but there's much more room.' Her favourite aspect is the sash windows and French doors. 'I keep them open all the time in summer. It's such a lovely space.'

The layout

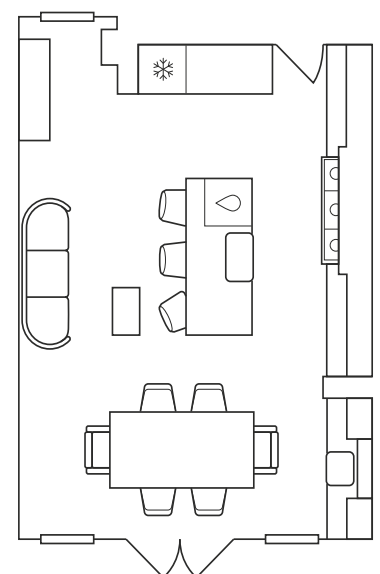




Table manners

Large wing chairs grace either end of the dining table, lending a casual ease

DESIGN SOLUTION *Designer Charlie Kingham explains...*

What was the brief?

French-style cabinetry was a must. Leo wanted a sophisticated, all-white look. Everything, down to the cabinetry handles, bolts and mouldings, was meticulously sourced for an authentic feel.

Was there any structural work involved?

Yes. The new scheme was to be in the same space of the existing kitchen, so we had to find the most practical layout. The final design was completely different, so we had to knock down a wall and some pillars. The old arrangement wasn't working for Leo as the island was too far away from the work zones and she didn't want the washing

machine and dryer too close to the cooking space, so we created a separate utility area.

Describe the materials used

All our materials are manufactured in the UK and then constructed in our workshop in Suffolk. We also sourced antique pieces to create a French look. We used Carrara marble for the worktops, with profile added to the edge. Our cabinetry is made using tulipwood, which is rarely found in its natural state, but is popular thanks to its durable qualities, as well as being brilliant to handpaint. An oak worktop was installed in the utility area to create a subtle distinction between the two zones.

Tell us about the pantry

This built-in unit was designed to complement the wall cabinets either side of the range cooker. It not only enhances the overall aesthetic, it's also a functional piece that stands up to the rigours of life in a modern kitchen.

What makes this kitchen special?

The beauty of this scheme is that we were able to repurpose salvaged gems and house them in an elegant bespoke design. The scheme is a mixture of everything: vintage, French, unique mouldings and handles, and then you have Leo's design input, too. It's just very fresh and original.



**‘I’M TOO BUSY
AT WORK TO
ENTERTAIN
REGULARLY,
BUT WHEN
WE DO HAVE
PEOPLE OVER
FOR DINNER,
THIS IS THE
PERFECT PLACE
TO HOST THEM
BECAUSE OF ITS
SOCIABLE, OPEN-
PLAN DESIGN’**



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT
Finishing touches

Even the smallest of details were chosen to complement the overall design and colour palette

On tap

As per Leo's request, Charlie created a separate utility area complete with a small Belfast sink, laundry facilities and a place to hide the boiler

Vintage appeal

Leo trawled the internet for these 19th-century apothecary labels, which introduce warmth and charm





Food glorious food

A generously sized built-in pantry combines chic style with utility

The details

CABINETRY Bespoke units, £35,000, Charlie Kingham, handpainted in Wimborne estate eggshell, £53 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball

SURFACES Carrara honed marble worktop with DuPont edge scribed profile, around £85sq m; bespoke full stave European oak worktop with Danish oil finish, around £200sq m, both Charlie Kingham

APPLIANCES Range cooker, £4,700, La Cornue. Extractor fan, £270; integrated fridge, £950, both Bosch. Freezer drawer, £1,400, Fisher Paykel

SINKS AND TAPS Antique white double Belfast sink and tap, £500, Perrin & Rowe. Ceramic Belfast sink, £240, Shaws of Darwen, has this look. Bayenne monobloc mixer tap, £229, Abode, is identical to this one. Classic boiling-water tap, £783, Quooker

FINISHING TOUCHES Chandelier, around £150; dining table and chairs, around £1,500, all Les Sardines. Wesley-Barrell's Hardwick chair in Naunton, from £1,330, is comparable to the armchairs. Sophie Conran's tableware for Portmeirion, from £11 for a mug, John Lewis, would suit this look. LSA light flared storm clear lantern, £48, Heal's, is a match. For similar antique cutlery, from £6 for a teaspoon, try Jennifer's Cutlery. Perlee footed vase, around £338, L'Objet, would work in this scheme

**‘AN ALL-WHITE
KITCHEN ISN'T
EASY TO KEEP
CLEAN. IT NEEDS
A LOT OF CARE AND
ATTENTION, BUT
IT'S WORTH IT’**

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Project profile

THE OWNERS Anne and Håkan Svensson

THEIR HOME A late-Georgian house in north London

THE PROJECT Their tiny kitchen was extended into the dining space so the couple had room to cook and entertain

ROOM SIZE About 3.4 x 6.3m

DESIGNER Architect Jeff Kahane

CABINETRY Tim Moss's bespoke kitchens and furniture

BUDGET Tim's kitchens start at around £36,000



Curve appeal

In order to make more space in their tiny kitchen, Anne and Håkan Svensson took a fluid approach to create a design that's practical and stylish

Feature **LESLEY HANNAFORD-HILL**

Photography **DARREN CHUNG**

When Anne and Håkan Svensson purchased their Georgian terraced house, the existing kitchen was situated in a very small extension in what had been a tiny yard. The previous owners had installed a bespoke kitchen but, as it was more than 30 years old, it was definitely time for a new one.

There was space in the old kitchen for two people to stand, but for only one to work. By contrast, Anne and Håkan's dining area was very spacious. The obvious solution was to extend the kitchen area out of its cramped space into the larger main room, which they did with the help of architect Jeff Kahane.

With no 90-degree angles in the house, Anne and Håkan knew they would need a bespoke kitchen. To make the project even more complex, they also wanted to widen the access from the dining room to kitchen space through the supporting back wall.

When it came to choosing a kitchen company, Anne and Håkan knew who they wanted. 'We were drawn to Tim Moss's curvy cabinets that we'd seen in local magazines,' says Anne. 'We decided to invest in a high-quality kitchen, having put so much thought, time and money into the design of the space.'

The pair both favour modernist 20th-century design, so the curves of the kitchen have some 1930s echoes, while the sliding glass doors are more 1960s. 'Håkan is Swedish, so you can probably spot some Scandi influence in there, too,' says Anne.



A touch of glass

Anne and Håkan were keen to include sliding glass doors on their wall cabinets. These were also a space-saving design feature of their previous flat in the Barbican

DESIGN SOLUTION

Architect Jeff Kahane explains

What were your main objectives with this kitchen project?

Anne and Håkan asked us to redesign their very small kitchen, which had no connection to the dining area. They wanted a kitchen and dining area where they could entertain and cook for guests. It was important to utilise the available space as effectively as possible and to come up with a design and materials that would form a seamless connection between the main work areas and the primary socialising space.

Any design influences?

Our clients had previously lived in a flat in the Barbican complex that had one of the original 1970s kitchens (now Grade II listed) and they were really taken with its design features. To reproduce some of that character, we were asked to incorporate glass sliding doors into the new, hand-crafted kitchen. The horizontal elements of those glass-fronted units help to link the two kitchen spaces, with the oak-finished shelves, cubbyholes and unit linings linking the dining area and oak dining table.

Were there any structural alterations?

Yes, we wanted to widen the doorway from the existing dining area into the kitchen as much as possible to improve the linkage between the two areas. The dividing wall carries the load of the two floors above and the main roof so, after consulting a structural engineer, we rebuilt parts of the wall in high-strength engineering bricks and only widened the opening above worktop height to create much-improved sight lines.

How did you overcome the problem of limited space and wonky angles?

Widening the upper part of the doorway helped enormously with the visual flow. We created extra storage by taking the overhead units right up to the ceiling. All the storage units are made to our clients' specific requests so that every corner of the kitchen has a clear purpose.

What made this project a successful one?

Anne and Håkan gave us a very detailed and helpful brief. Tim Moss's individual kitchen design and craftsmanship created a unique result and the building contractors, Foresight Property Refurbishments, were able to visualise and implement the designs, and did an amazing job working in such a tight space.



Well rounded

Curves were used in the design of the cabinetry to allow a better flow between the two kitchen areas

‘ANNE AND HÅKAN HAD SPECIFIC REQUESTS AS TO HOW THEY WANTED TO USE EACH OF THE NEW CUPBOARDS’



Cupboard love

The wall cupboards were all carefully designed to maximise every inch of storage space



At the ready

Open shelving above the food preparation area makes it easy to reach up for ingredients

The details

CABINETRY Bespoke units by Tim Moss. Cabinetry paint, Skylight estate eggshell, £51 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball

SURFACES Silestone worktops in Platinum colourway, £3,600, Jeff Kahane

APPLIANCES Hide and Slide electric fan oven, £608, Neff. White induction hob, £399, Gorenje, Tim Moss

SINKS AND TAPS Claron 400-U stainless steel undermounted sink, £524, Blanco; Icerock circular stainless steel undermounted sink, £295, Kohler; hot and cold filter tap, £546, Insinkerator, all Tim Moss

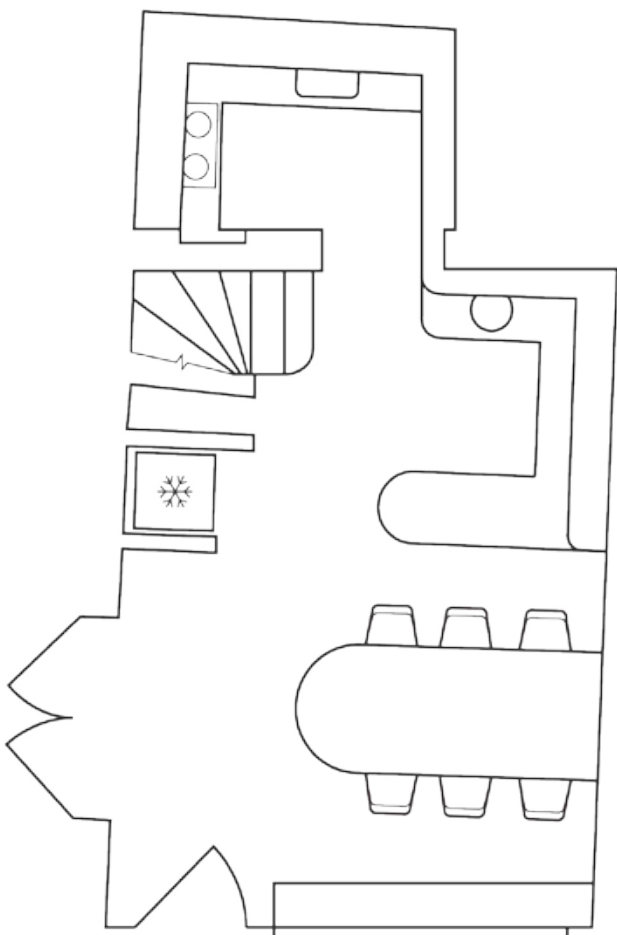
FINISHING TOUCHES Antique Tiles frame mirror, made to measure, Frame Emporium. Studioilse Together extending dining table, from £2,826, De La Espada. Sawhorse dining chairs, Carl Hensen, £541 each, The Lollipop Shoppe. Secto Victo ceiling light, £630, John Lewis. Drop Linear pendant lights, £174 each, Original BTC



Floor plans

The existing engineered oak floor was sanded and stained a darker shade to add warmth and texture to the room

The layout



‘THE COUPLE LOVE 20TH-CENTURY DESIGN AND WERE INSPIRED BY THE STYLE OF THEIR PREVIOUS 1970S KITCHEN’



Attention to detail
Every corner of the kitchen has a specific purpose, including the oak display shelf built under the worktop



Surface matters

Anne and Håkan liked the light-reflecting grey and silver flecks in the silestone worktop

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Feature LINDA CLAYTON

Paper power

Retro wallpaper in the breakfast nook provides a colourful focal point

Project Profile

THE OWNERS Kello Bowen her husband Matthieu, a managing director, and children Othilie, 9, Clélia, 8, Eliott, 5, and Ludmille, 8 months

THEIR HOME A four-bedroom 19th-century apartment in Paris's chic 7th arrondissement

THE PROJECT The original kitchen was turned into a nursery and a new kitchen was installed in the much bigger adjacent dining room

KITCHEN SIZE 5.5 x 4.3m

DESIGNER Camille Hermand, Camille Hermand Architectures, 00 33 140 400 280, camillearchitectures.com

CABINETRY Bespoke painted cabinets made by a local joinery company, for similar try Roundhouse's Urbo range

PROJECT BUDGET €40,000 (around £32,000)

Architectural influence

The pared-back design lets original features such as the parquet floor and ceiling cornicing shine through

As one of Paris's most exclusive districts, the 7th arrondissement is renowned for its cobbled streets and grand architecture. With the Eiffel Tower and Musée d'Orsay on their doorstep, not to mention sophisticated shops and charming bistros, it's no wonder Kello and Matthieu Bowen are keen to remain residents. But nearly two years ago, the impending arrival of their fourth child meant their beloved apartment was set to reach bursting point. Upgrading to the four-bed apartment they needed would force them out of the 7th quarter's high-end property market.

Architect Camille Hermand hit upon the idea of turning the existing small kitchen into a nursery and the large, light-filled dining room next door into a kitchen-diner. The family would lose their formal dining room but gain a far more sociable, welcoming space. 'Unlike the existing bijou kitchen, the dining room was a very generous space and benefited from large glass doors opening onto a traditional Parisian balcony,' says Camille. 'We had to remove an original marble fireplace and wall panelling to make way for cabinets but tried to keep or recreate as many period features as possible.'

For the overall design, Kello was inspired by black paint and asked Camille to create something similarly modern that would sit comfortably with the apartment's classic heritage. Ultimately, the Bowens were keen to create a space that looked like a chic, contemporary dining room but also happened to be a fully functioning kitchen.





‘I LOVE THE TILES – THEY SEEM QUITE OLD WHEN YOU LOOK AT THEM BUT ARE ALSO VERY MODERN’

Smart shelf

Patricia Urquiola's Azulej tiles are inspired by traditional encaustic cement tiles from the Victorian era. Here, they are topped with a slim painted black shelf for a neat finish and a chic display area



DESIGN SOLUTION *Architect Camille Hermand explains...*

How did you plan the kitchen layout?

At first, Matthieu was keen on an island but there wasn't room for both an island and a table. Since the dining room is no more, the table won. We avoided wall units on one side to stop it looking too much like a kitchen. The fridge, freezer, microwave and pantry are all concealed behind a wall of tall cabinets. As there were plumbing or ventilation ducts, we built a false ceiling to hide the pipework and electrics between the old ceiling and new. It also allowed us to install a giant flush-fitting extractor. The parquet floor is original but we had to take it up, lay a concrete screed underneath, then painstakingly replace each piece. French building regulations require every kitchen floor to have a screed barrier.

What about the colour palette?

The cabinets are painted in Farrow & Ball's Off-Black, which the room is light enough to cope with. We chose jet black appliances and also painted the balcony doors black. The wall of tall units is painted in Dior Grey, mixed using RAL 7035, which is inspired by the light grey colour used in all the Dior shops in France.

Tell us about the breakfast nook

Items such as the kettle and toaster are better to have available for daily use, so we created a small recess for the breakfast appliances. It was also an excuse to work in the fabulous Minakami Lab wallpaper as a small area of colour. The space would be far less interesting without it.

Where did you source the lighting?

I hate lighting 'ranges' whereby you select matching pendants and wall lights from the same company. Instead I like to mix it up. I found the light above the table in The Conran Shop. The glass pendants are by Unika and the wall lights in the breakfast nook are by Atelier Areti.

What was your biggest challenge?

To make it feel like a dining room, not a kitchen. The couple were concerned they would miss their dining room, especially when entertaining. But Kello recently said that it was a pleasure to come home because they look forward to being in their kitchen, so I think it has worked.



Shades of grey

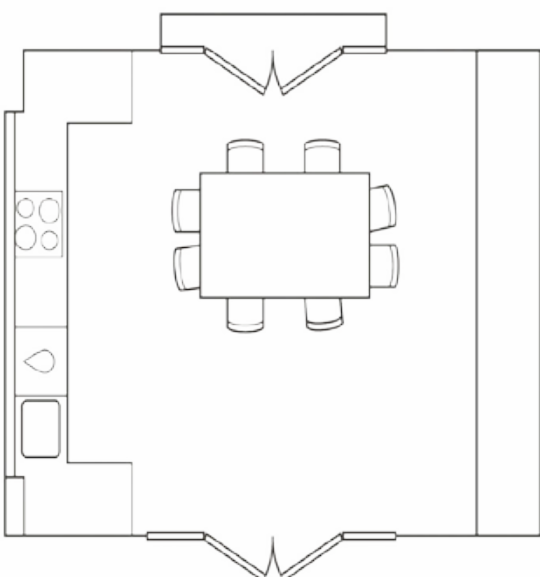
The floor-to-ceiling wall of cabinets is painted in an elegant shade known as Dior Grey



Discreet extraction

The Novy extractor has a white flush plate that blends into the ceiling. 'It was expensive but it's so quiet, which is important for dining,' says Camille

The layout



The details

SURFACES Similar honed Black Zimbabwe granite **worktops**, £300lin m, Mayflower Stone. Azulej porcelain **wall tiles** in Renda Grigio by Patricia Urquiola for Mutina, £146.28sq m, Surface Tiles. Mosaic **wallpaper**, price on application, Minakani Lab. Similar **flooring**, reclaimed oak parquet, from £47sq m, The Antique Oak Flooring Company

CABINETRY For similar cabinets try the Urbo range, from £30,000, Roundhouse. Cabinetry painted in Off-Black dead flat, £54 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball, and RAL 7035 (Dior Grey), which can be created by any paint-mixing supplier

APPLIANCES 6830 Pure'line **extractor hood** by Novy, for similar try Neff's Series 5 I92C67NoGB integrated **cooker hood**, £1,200;

AEG Competence HK654400XB built-in **induction hob**, £550, both AO.com. HB78GB670B **single oven** in black by Siemens, £1,020; Liebherr UIG1313 Comfort integrated undercounter **freezer**, £420, both Curry's. Liebherr IK3510, 178cm integrated larder **fridge**, £970, Appliance City

SINK AND TAP Largo LAX 110-50 stainless steel **sink** by Franke, £200; similar **tap**, Rangemaster Quadrant chrome single-lever tap, £170.36, both QS Supplies

FINISHING TOUCHES Circus Matt Black large **pendant shade** by Innermost, £450, Heal's. Northern Lighting Unika **pendant light** in clear glass, £204; Atelier Areti Cone **wall lamp**, £169, both Nest

WORKING WONDERS

Utility rooms and pantries are the workhorses of the kitchen, packing in plenty of storage and additional services

WHILE OPEN-PLAN LIVING REMAINS AT THE TOP OF most kitchen wish lists, a utility room or pantry are not far behind. To some extent, the two go hand-in-hand. In today's open-plan schemes, the work area often occupies a smaller footprint than the traditional kitchen, and everything is on show. Such layouts offer fewer storage opportunities and, when it comes to services and laundry appliances, no-one wants the soundtrack to meals to be the spin cycle of a washing machine. Where space allows, a good-sized utility room will provide all the room you need for laundry, an extra sink and bulk storage. But don't be put off if space is an issue. A perfectly workable laundry area can be wrestled into little more than a cupboard, while a standalone pantry will certainly ease some storage woes.

In this utility/boot room, plenty of storage makes it a good option for a minimal, open-plan kitchen. Facing onto the garden and including a large double sink means muddy boots and pets can be quickly and neatly cleaned up before making it into the main living areas



Utility rooms don't just have to be for laundry – they're a perfect space solution for larger appliances that don't fit in with the kitchen



Siting your laundry cupboard and appliances in the same room is a logical choice, and bespoke cabinetry ensures storage will meet your needs

WHYS AND WHERE'S

Utility rooms are often next door to the kitchen, sharing services such as water and drainage but this is not the only option. Don't overlook small spaces – a 2 x 2m area is plenty – a hallway cupboard, under the stairs or perhaps sharing with a cloakroom are all workable solutions. And don't discount upstairs – a box room can be repurposed for laundry and ironing, pulling in a water supply and drainage from a nearby bathroom, and with the bonus that it is nearer to both the linen basket and to drawers and wardrobes. Do bear in mind the noise and vibration of laundry appliances – experts recommend fitting extra insulation and vibration-reduction pads underneath. A ground floor utility with a main entrance door can double as a boot room, being the first port of call for muddy shoes, paws and bicycles, as well as a drop-off point for sports equipment. Include low-level seating, shoe racks and coat hooks.

SUPPORT WORK

Whether you're carving out space for a new room or redesigning an existing utility, a key question to ask is: 'What do I want from this room?' Laundry is often a starting point, preferably with an extra sink for washing boots, dogs and using mops and buckets. Keen entertainers might require extra refrigeration and possibly an extra built-in oven – even if you have an Aga as your cooking workhorse, you might want the speed and efficiency of an electric oven for busy days or gatherings. Larger households might focus on storage for bulk buys, while pet owners will find a home for pet beds and feeding stations. Your kitchen designer will quiz you over use as a starting point. You can help pre-empt this by running your own assessment of your household, taking into account how your needs might change in future, and including any overflow storage from the kitchen and elsewhere.

POWER HOUSE

Work in as many extra electrical points as possible, not just for a washing machine and dryer, but for irons, steamers and other dominant appliances that you might not want (or have room for) in the kitchen, such as an American-style refrigerator, a wine fridge, microwave or breadmaker. Stack your laundry appliances on top of each other or place them side-by-side, so that wet clothes can easily be transferred from the washer to the dryer. These days, most tumble dryers are condensing models, which don't require to be extracted through an exterior wall (although vented models will need this), but do consider a decent ventilation system for the room, as well as good, clear lighting. You will also need easily accessible hot and cold water valves and electrical switches in case of any servicing and maintenance issues.

'CARRYING THROUGH THE KITCHEN DESIGN INTO AN ADJOINING OR NEARBY UTILITY WILL KEEP THE LOOK AND FEEL OF THE SPACE CONSISTENT'

Peter Humphrey, founder and design director, Humphrey Munson Kitchens

PRACTICALITY FOR UTILITY

When it comes to cabinetry and surfaces such as splashbacks and floors, the kitchen might be all about good-looking materials, but the utility can be plainer and certainly needs to be robust. Splashproof, stain-resistant and easy-clean surfaces are a must and tiles, lino, vinyl and stone are all good options. Plain, flat-fronted doors are easiest to wipe down and can be the most affordable option, while a large, deep sink is best for all big cleaning tasks. Look for practical lever taps that can be operated with the forearms when hands are dirty or otherwise occupied, as well as hose attachments for flexible cleaning. Make sure there is a decent amount of work surface around the sink for sorting through laundry.

IN STORE

The utility is often an extension of your main kitchen and can be useful for storing household essentials, oversized or little-used servingware, bulk-buy groceries and big packs of loo roll. Well-organised storage is key. As well as wall

and base units and pull-out drawers for stashing smaller items, don't forget a tall cabinet for the ironing board, mop and vacuum cleaner. Open shelving is great for at-a-glance accessibility – aim to use as much height as is practical. Go bespoke to make the most of every inch of space or look for flexible storage systems with strong but adjustable shelving. Simple cubbyholes are an economical and sturdy way to store all manner of goods.

PANTRY STORES

A utility without services is more of a pantry and, as such, has a few different requirements. The traditional location for a larder is on the north-facing side of the house – the side that never sees the sun – with as many external walls as possible to benefit from natural chilling and good ventilation. Larders and pantries should be cool, well-lit, have easy-to-sweep floors and rows of sturdy shelves – stone walls and slate flagstones are perfect. A marble slab is useful for bringing cheese to temperature and for storing additional dishes when cooking for a crowd.

NEED TO KNOW

- If you intend to iron in the utility room, make sure you have plenty of space to stand your ironing board and still be able to walk around it
- Big bins are useful, particularly multi-divider models where you can sort waste and keep recycling out of the main kitchen
- Secondary appliances such as large fridge freezers, which may detract from the visual appeal in the kitchen, are easily accessible in a utility. It's a good overflow option for parties and large gatherings
- Speak to your builder or project manager at the outset about water and drainage. These considerations will determine your layout
- A utility zone carved off from a main kitchen area will benefit from folding or sliding doors



Choose flooring that's easy to mop, sweep and care for – laundry detergents can take their toll



In a pantry, make sure underfloor heating is kept out of the area to keep food well-preserved



Appliances can be hidden behind attractive custom-made cabinetry – bear in mind your floor space when choosing how the doors will open



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Secrets of a... PAINT SPECIALIST

David Mottershead, founder and MD of Little Greene, explains how a well-chosen palette can transform a scheme

Colour is a very personal thing.

Don't be led by the supplier – I see a lot of blues in kitchens at the moment because it's fashionable, but you need to live with it. The incoming trend for orange may be challenging in the kitchen and I think it will date terribly.

Don't be afraid to experiment with

dark colours. We tend to lose our nerve when it comes strong shades. Follow your heart and, if you don't like a colour, paint is the easiest and least expensive thing to change about a kitchen. A friend of mine painted one half of hers in citrine and the other in magenta. It wouldn't have been my choice, but she loves it.



Look for a rich, yet calming shade

that allows you to relax in your space. Try to avoid anything that's too extreme – there's already a lot of activity going on in the kitchen.

The higher the pigment, the greater the depth of colour. Cheaper paints contain less resin (the material that sticks the pigment to the wall) so always opt for a high-quality paint to ensure a durable finish.

Use a mood board to help you choose the right palette for your scheme. Gather samples of the materials you plan to use, for example, oak, stainless steel or mosaic tiles, and lay colour swatches next to them. You'll instantly know what's a good or bad combination.

I'm a qualified industrial chemist, and I also paint and sculpt in my spare time, which has honed my eye for colour. The two skills complement each other well. The advancements in colour over the past few centuries is down to chemists producing new pigment.

Developments in pigmentation influence interiors style. As new pigments were invented in the 19th century, they became fashionable in palaces across Europe. The trend would filter down to the nobility, then the masses.

The way we formulate our colours at Little Greene is different to other companies. We normally use seven or eight pigments in a shade, which gives it a very pleasing effect in different lights. With our Celestial Blue shade, for example, we add a bit of pink, green and yellow for depth.

Grey is a popular shade for kitchens right now, but most people don't know how to use it properly. We developed a colour card featuring 28 shades of grey, from light to dark, to help you decide on the right one for your scheme.

I'm currently renovating a dilapidated 1970s kitchen in an Arts and Crafts house. I've chosen a very dark blue marble flooring with an ecru infill, and units in a mid-blue.

I don't think any paint company is volatile organic compound-free (there are traces of VOC in the air we breathe), but our paints contain less than 0.1 per cent, which is three times better than the industry's lowest eco rating.

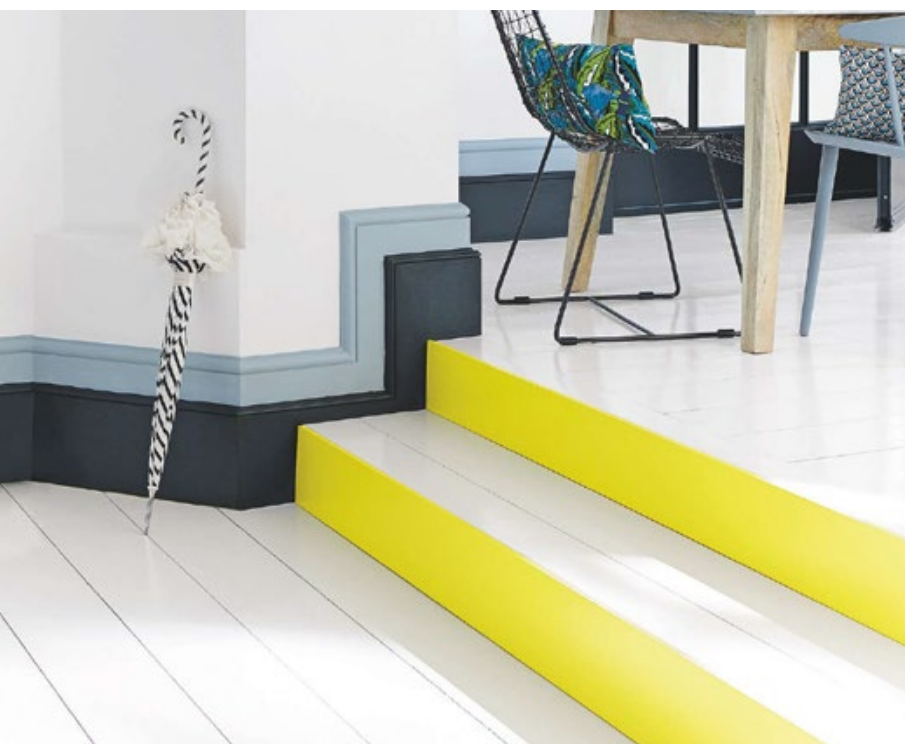
We do a lot of research on historical colour in partnership with English Heritage. People keep coming back to the shades that were used in the 18th and 19th centuries. Our most popular paint colours are French Grey, Mid Lead (a Georgian shade) and Canton, a 1950s turquoise hue. I think historical shades offer people a sense of comfort and nostalgia.

Little Greene dates back to 1720, when it used to produce dyes for the cotton industry. The company also created paints and varnishes for cars, enamels for clock faces, and even varnishes for coffins. We've only been around as a decorative paint company for about 20 years.

For your nearest Little Greene stockist, contact 0845 880 5855, littlegreene.com.



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE Little Greene collaborated with English Heritage on a range of colours, including Hick's Blue, £43.50 for 2.5 litres intelligent matt emulsion. Enhance a feature wall with a complementary paint shade – Little Greene offers a choice of yellows to partner its striking Crowe Hall Lane wallpaper, £71 per roll. Don't be afraid of bold tones – if you don't like it, just paint over it. For a more low-key look, go neutral with a subtle splash of bright colour. Painting an island in a rich shade is a simple way to reinvigorate your scheme. Sculptured kitchen, £3,178, Linda Barker for Wren Kitchens. **OPPOSITE PAGE** The right shade can give old furniture a new lease of life.





CHARLES
YORKE

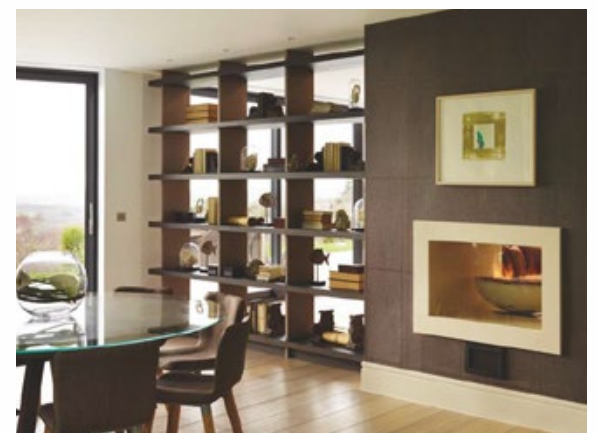
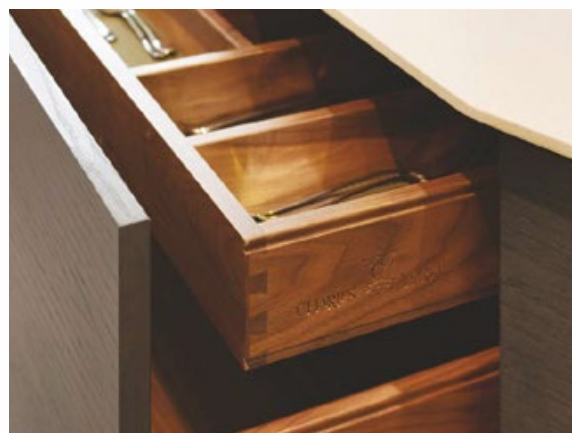
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STYLE ON TAP

The **latest taps** combine good looks with superior performance



1 A traditional bridge mixer tap gets an update with this oil-rubbed bronze finish on a Parq mixer, H37.3cm, £1,138.50, Kohler. **2** The cold-water handle of the Dante Filter tap operates in two directions: forward for mains water, back for pure filtered water, H39cm, £340, Carron Phoenix. **3** The pull-out spray of the Metris single-lever mixer offers a broad and normal spray to tackle different rinsing tasks, H43cm, £450, Hansgrohe. **4** Available in matt colours including Pearl White, the sleek 3N1 tap offers filtered steaming boiling water up to 98°C, as well as hot and cold, H30cm, £800, Insinkerator. **5** The uniquely-shaped Asta mixer has an adjustable and removable stainless-steel spout with a silicone rubber hose in various colours,

H30.5cm, £1,590, CEA. **6** Red for hot, blue for cold, Caple's Lucet tap features a colour-changing LED light that responds to the change in water temperature. Measuring H43cm, it costs £1,099. **7** Franke's Maris mixer, H31.9cm, £249, features a minimalist design with upright paddle levers and a gently sloping spout. **8** The Spetco mixer is a modern take on the traditional pillar tap, with a pencil-slim lever and polished chrome finish, H25cm, £102, Abode. **9** Boasting a height-adjustable spout, the childproof Nordic Square boiling-water tap is handy for filling a tall pan, H15-35cm, £950, Quooker. **10** Available in a rose-gold finish, the Tara mixer tap measures H37.8cm and costs £769, Dornbracht

For stockist details go to page 150

Amazing GREYS

Creating a design with presence was the driving force behind this striking family kitchen

Feature **SALLY NARRAWAY** Photography **RICHARD GADSBY**



Architectural improvements

Removing the old chimney breast gave the kitchen a cleaner, more rectangular shape, and now there is plenty of light, thanks to the new south-facing orangery



Having moved from a charming 17th-century cottage to a 1950s house, Michele and Vivek Sharma were keen to inject some character into their new home. 'There was fantastic potential to develop it,' says Michele.

They began with the kitchen, replacing an old lean-to with an orangery and installing a black Aga before Michele approached Lewis Alderson & Co to create her new space. 'The room has limited wall space, but designer Tom Edmonds' plans gave us an extra-large island to provide the worktop space and he placed the sink in it so you can see towards the paddocks,' says Michele. She wanted a classic kitchen with a contemporary edge and was keen

to add interest with a mix of colours and details, such as the retro radiators and handmade wall tiles. 'We wanted a kitchen with substance,' she explains. 'We used a palette of warm greys and purple on the pantry unit for a pop of colour.'

In the utility-cum-boot room, a variety of cupboards house everything from the ironing board to riding boots. 'Tom was meticulous about ensuring everything had a place,' says Michele. Another of his ideas was the big butler sink, where the couple hide pots and pans when they host dinner parties. 'I'm really looking forward to having friends over to show them what we've done,' says Michele. 'Some thought this house was too much of a challenge, but I'm really happy with how it turned out.'

Simplicity and substance

'Michele wanted to add interest to the room,' explains Tom. 'This is done with different textures, colours and furnishings such as lights, tiles and worktops'



Project profile

THE OWNERS Michele Sharma, her husband, Vivek, a company director, and sons Finnian, 15, and Lucas, 12, and daughter, Evie, 9

THEIR HOME A 1950s four-bedroom equestrian property with seven acres in Surrey

THE PROJECT The old lean-to was replaced with a large hardwood orangery and a back door was added to the boot room for garden access

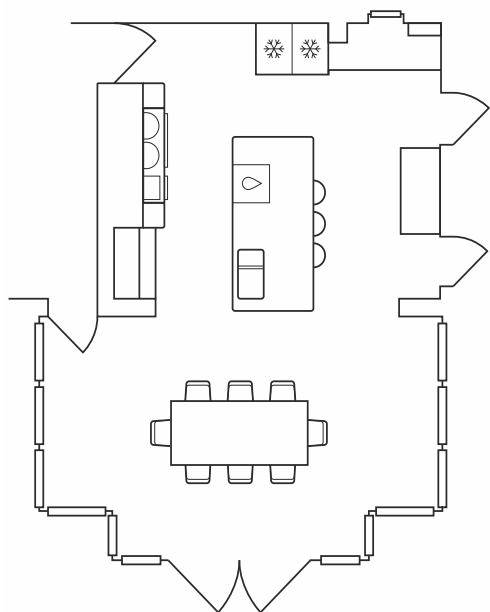
ROOM SIZE 4.5 x 5m

DESIGNER Tom Edmonds at Lewis Alderson & Co

CABINETRY Bespoke units in a flat-panel style with cock bead, price on application, Lewis Alderson & Co

PROJECT BUDGET Undisclosed

The layout



RIGHT

Inner workings

In a bespoke scheme, drawers will often contain slots for cutlery and other utensils, as well as pegs to keep crockery in its place and stop it sliding around in the drawer

FAR RIGHT

In the zone

Choosing an undermounted sink and a sleek tap with pull-out rinse keeps food preparation and clean-up efficient, but won't dominate a streamlined space



On display

The upper cupboard with bifold doors has power sockets inside for small appliances and houses Michele's tableware collection





DESIGN SOLUTION

Designer Tom Edmonds explains...

What was the brief?

To create a classic kitchen with an industrial influence. Michele and Vivek wanted to add character to the interiors, while also keeping things simple and clean-lined.

How did you decide on the layout?

The Aga wouldn't have fitted in any other location, so positioning everything else was a process of elimination. It was logical to put the fridge where it is to avoid having to run around the island to get the milk.

How did you choose the size of the island?

It was determined by the position of the fridge and the depth of the Aga, while leaving ample space to walk around it and have access to the pantry. The island is 2.75m long, and we couldn't go bigger because of the worktop sheet size.

Explain the mix of worksurfaces

We used Nero Assoluto granite in a honed finish around the room, for a classic look. The granite would have been too dark in the centre of the room, so we used a white composite on the island. The utility room is Nero Impala granite, which has more of a grey fleck.

Why three colours of cabinets?

It makes the elements of the kitchen look a bit more interesting – like freestanding pieces. When you enter the room, the pantry is the first thing you see, and the colour really pops.

Any advice on teaming coloured pieces?

Paint the pieces that are built in or connected in a paler colour with the darker colour on the island. The highlight colour needs to be on a freestanding piece and it should have a bit of physical distance to the main colour.

What are you most pleased with?

How the colours come together, from the black-blue of the island to the reddy aubergine of the pantry and mossy stone grey of the built-in units.

FAR LEFT

At your service

Always think of storage possibilities when going bespoke – if you have an awkward space, it can make the perfect place to store items such as chopping boards

LEFT

Material decisions

Quartz worktops not only look attractive, but are also easy to keep clean, and choosing a light shade can instantly brighten a scheme



Purple reign

Michele loves the aubergine colour Tom suggested for the pantry so much, she has used it on various elements throughout the house

The details

CABINETRY Bespoke handpainted cabinetry in a flat-panel style with cock bead, from £35,000, Lewis Alderson & Co. Cabinetry paint, Charleston Gray estate eggshell (units); Railings (island); Pelt (pantry), all £53 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball

SURFACES Worktops, honed Nero Assoluto granite and honed Nero Impala granite, both price on application; island worktop, Luna Stone engineered quartz in Artico, price on application, all Lewis Alderson & Co. Storm honed limestone floor tiles, £54.99sq m, Mandarin Stone. Valencia wall

tiles in white, £1.85 each, Fired Earth. Wall paint, Strong White estate emulsion, £38 for 2.5 litres; Woodwork paint, Strong White estate eggshell, £53 for 2.5 litres, both Farrow & Ball

APPLIANCES Five-oven Aga Total Control in black, £12,395, Aga. Goliath three-door fridge freezer, £1,999, Fisher & Paykel. Integrated dishwasher, £569, Neff. Washing machine, £699, Bosch. Condenser dryer, £275, Zanussi

SINKS AND TAPS Icerock one-and-a-half

bowl sink (island), £835, Kohler. Normandy ceramic sink (utility room), price on application, Brass & Traditional Sinks. Phoenician tap with rinse, from £302; Ionian bridge mixer tap, from £322, both Perrin & Rowe

FINISHING TOUCHES Hay About a Stool oak stools, £192 each, Made in Design. Padang teak table, from £1,195; Padang teak chairs, £275 each; both Lombok. Wye Valley Railroad pendant lights, £120 each, Fritz Fryer. Lights over dining table, price on application, Miscellanea

‘I WAS ORIGINALLY THINKING OF USING WOODEN WORKTOPS BUT TOM SUGGESTED WHITE QUARTZ TO BRIGHTEN UP THE ROOM AND GIVE IT A CLEAN LOOK’

Island life

This central unit makes a great spot for the children to have their breakfast or grab a quick bite to eat. ‘The open end on the island was Michele’s idea,’ says Tom. ‘Rather than a solid end, she wanted something more dimensional where items could be displayed’

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**DONNA AND RICHARD
BARBER'S SPACIOUS AND
STYLISH KITCHEN IS
PROOF THAT TIME TAKEN
ON PREPARATION IS
TIME WELL SPENT**

Feature AMELIA THORPE
Photography DARREN CHUNG

Project profile

THE OWNER Donna Barber, her husband, Richard, and their children, Richard, 16, and twins Katie and John, 12

THEIR HOME A five bedroom house in Essex, built about 14 years ago

THE PROJECT An extension to increase the rear ground-floor area by one third, replacing a small kitchen with a large open-plan space

ROOM SIZE 8 x 12m

DESIGNER James Yeo of James Yeo Cabinet Makers

CABINETRY Bespoke white semi-matt lacquered furniture with island in book-matched Santos Rosewood veneer and curved wall cupboard in Zebrano veneer, by James Yeo. Kitchens from £35,000

PROJECT BUDGET About £70,000 excluding construction work



**‘I LIKE TO
CONTRAST
LIGHT AND DARK
MATERIALS
FOR MAXIMUM
IMPACT’**

James Yeo

Mulling over the plans to extend their home in Essex, Donna and Richard Barber decided to go that little bit further. ‘Initially, we simply wanted a bigger kitchen, but over the years, as the children grew, we knew it would make more sense to add a large extension,’ says Donna.

‘Our goal was to make an open-plan family kitchen-dining-living space across the entire width of the rear of the house to improve the layout and flow of the whole ground floor, and to create a better connection with the garden,’ says Donna. ‘Our ideas developed over time and that allowed us to create something well suited to our family.’ When it came to their choice of

kitchen designer, Donna and Richard again took their time. ‘We wanted a modern, high-quality kitchen,’ says Donna. ‘For us, James Yeo’s work really stood out for its beautifully made feel – the detail of every drawer reveals the craftsmanship that has gone into it.’

But it was only after a long search that they found James. ‘I was surprised that some kitchen companies call their furniture bespoke, but set choices don’t really mean bespoke,’ says Donna. ‘When I asked one company for a particular size of bread bin, the salesman said they made bespoke kitchens, not bespoke bread bins.’

‘The difference with James is that everything really was made to our specification,’ continues Donna. ‘I love to cook

and so wanted lots of purpose-made storage for equipment and ingredients, and James was genuinely enthusiastic about making sure all the details were just perfect. I love the way he designed specific heights of drawers and then fitted them behind the cabinet doors to create a streamlined effect.’

For Donna, the highlight of the new kitchen is the island. ‘While other companies simply drew up a square island, James created this wonderfully organic shape that flows across the room to create a link with the dining area,’ she explains. ‘I adore the contrast of the striking Santos rosewood veneer with the mirrored plinths, and the sense that the island is floating in the room. It’s stunning.’

DESIGN SOLUTIONS *Designer James Yeo explains...*

Tell us how you approached the design

For me, the layout comes first. As this is a large room, it was important to create a neat working area so Donna didn't have to walk miles every time she prepares a meal. Equally, the furniture needs to be in proportion to the size of the room. Here, the tall cabinets house all the appliances in a row along the wall, creating a streamlined effect, balanced by the drama of the large island.

Can you tell us about the island?

Its unusual shape is designed to create a sense of flow as it sweeps along the kitchen area and around towards the dining table, linking the different zones of the room. The ends

of the island feature non-modular curves, which look very striking when you enter the room, and also when you are sitting at the table.

What about the materials and colours of the island?

Donna and Richard chose the Santos rosewood veneer themselves. It's warm and richly-coloured, with dramatic figuring, and is very eye-catching, so it is perfect for the focal point of the room. The island also features recessed mirrored plinths, lit by side-emitting LEDs tucked under the cabinets, designed to create the feeling that the island is floating. The main worktop is made from warm grey Silestone. As a durable and

non-porous material, it is ideal for the wet zone by the sinks. The serving area, which Donna also uses for baking and pastry-making, is made from a slab of polished granite with a gently flecked grey coloration to provide some contrast.

How did you complete the scheme?

Wood, stone and metal make a natural combination, so we used stainless steel for the hob area. Donna likes its semi-industrial feel, and it is also a practical choice – it copes well with hot pans, and is easy to wipe clean. The extractor is concealed in a curved wall cabinet wrapped in beautiful zebrano veneer and is designed to stand out as an elegant piece of furniture.



Bright idea

Skylights were installed to optimise the amount of natural light coming through

The details

CABINETRY Bespoke white semi-matt lacquered **cabinetry**; **island** in book-matched Santos Rosewood veneer; curved **wall cabinet** in Zebrano veneer. Kitchens start from £35,000, James Yeo Cabinet Makers

SURFACES Bespoke 60mm **stainless steel worktop** with 70mm upstand, £2,000; 30mm Silestone Cemento **quartz worktop** in suede finish with recessed drainer grooves, £5,000; 30mm Serizzo **granite worktop**, £1,500; 6mm white satin glass **splashback**, £2,000, all James Yeo Cabinet Makers. Ceramica Imola Micron 120 x 120cm porcelain **floor tiles**, £89.95sq m, Essex Tile Design

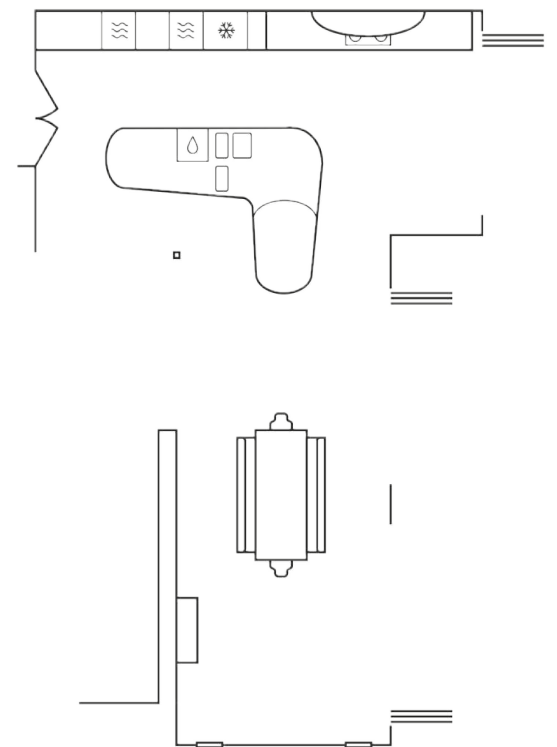
APPLIANCES Built-in multifunction **single oven**, £3,099; built-in combi **steam oven**, £3,799; built-in combi **microwave**, £2,999; **induction hob**, £1,475; built-in **warming drawers**, £899; built-in **coffee machine**, £3,299; fully integrated **fridge**, £6,700; fully integrated **freezer**, £7,300; built-in **wine cooler**, £1,850, all Miele. Built-in over-hob

extractor, £500, Westin. Integrated **fridge drawer**, £1,750, Fisher & Paykel. 2 x integrated **dishwashers**, £879, Siemens

SINKS AND TAP Blanco Claron 500-U **sink**, £437; 180-U undermounted **stainless steel sink**, £357, both Blanco. Fusion Square Combi **tap** in brushed chrome, £1,540, Quooker

FINISHING TOUCHES PH50 **pendant lights** by Louis Poulsen, £555 each, Skandium. **Lighting design**, price on application, Dark Light Design. Bianco **dining table**, from £2,137, Ligne Roset Westend. De La Espada **tapas chairs** by Matthew Hilton, £702 each, Heal's. For similar bespoke walnut and leather **benches**; bespoke figured walnut **sideboard**, prices on application, try James Yeo Cabinet Makers. Aksu Emerald **wallpaper**, £83 per roll, Designers Guild

The layout



‘DRAMATICALLY FIGURED VENEER CREATES A SENSE OF MOVEMENT WITH GREAT VISUAL EFFECT’ *James Yeo*



Bring outdoors in

To create a seamless transition, the glazed doors slide to one side, and the same tiles were used inside and outside

Bold and beautiful

Emerald green wallpaper creates a fresh backdrop to the figured walnut sideboard



Hide and seek

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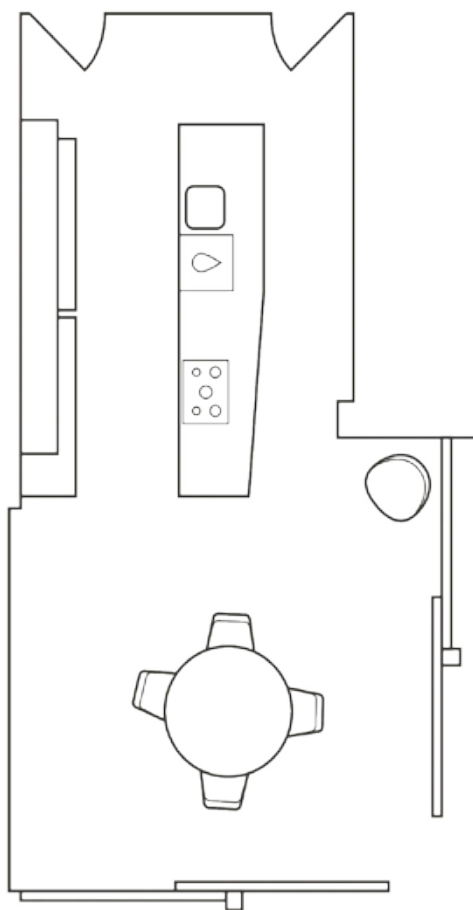
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GUIDING LIGHT

SOME CLIENTS COME WITH FIXED IDEAS, BUT NOT LILI PRAIS AND MICHAEL LYON. LILI EXPLAINS HOW THEY GOT THEIR DREAM KITCHEN BY LETTING THEIR DESIGNER LEAD THE WAY

Feature **ROS ANDERSON**
Photography **NEALE SMITH**

The layout



Colour notes

The grey surround for the kitchen wall units is a nod to the industrial feel Lili wanted, but designer Colin suggested adding a bold flash of orange to lift the design. His choice of colour was inspired by seeing Michael's treasured guitar on his first site visit



Project profile

THE OWNERS Lili Prais, an advocate, and her partner Michael Lyon, a solicitor

THEIR HOME A Victorian detached house in the East End of Glasgow

THE PROJECT To demolish the old galley kitchen, extend across the width of the house and into the garden, creating a large open-plan entertaining space

ROOM SIZE Around 7 x 8m at its widest points

DESIGNER Colin Wong of Development Direct

CABINETRY ClassicArt in Satin White by Häcker of Germany, £11,000, from Development Direct

BUDGET Around £21,000, excluding building work

A modern kitchen featuring a white island with a sink and a modern faucet. To the left is a wall of red brick with two vertical metal rods. The ceiling is white with recessed lighting. Large windows on the right side offer a view of a garden and a brick building. In the background, a dining area with a round table and chairs is visible.

Light fantastic

Slots in the ceiling, plus recessed spotlights are used to create a flexible lighting system that can change colour at night, part of Colin's vision for a 'party pad' kitchen fit for his vivacious clients

Iwanted a TV in the kitchen but Colin said I couldn't,' says Lili Prais. This isn't the whim of a cantankerous partner, but the decision of Lili's kitchen designer, Colin Wong. In fact, Lili and her partner Michael Lyon felt confident enough in Colin to give him nothing more than a rough budget and some measurements. 'He knew exactly what our kitchen should be like,' she says. 'We were in safe hands.'

The design Colin worked on was sited in the contemporary extension of the couple's home, opening on to the garden. Lili was astute enough to recognise that the new kitchen would work best if its style contrasted with the rest of the period property, rather than copied it, but the specifics of the kitchen were handed over to Colin. This

even included appliances. 'The only reason we have a coffee machine is that we needed a third appliance to fit in with the design!' admits Lili.

She was in two minds over whether to have an island workstation, preferring to leave it to Colin's judgement. 'It is quite a narrow space and I wasn't even sure if an island would fit in,' explains Lili. Colin's elegant, tapering solution is perfect for the room, leading the eye out towards the garden.

The rest of Colin's ideas were met with similarly enthusiastic approval, from the orange accents to the lighting scheme, which changes colour on demand. But it's the pairing of 21st-century style with 19th-century architecture that Lili likes best. 'We were craving modernity,' she says, 'and here you really notice the difference between the old and the new.'



Point of view

The transition from kitchen to dining space is emphasised by the island's long, slim, tapering shape



DESIGN SOLUTION *Designer Colin Wong explains...*

What was your inspiration for the design?

The building is old and rather dark, but Lili and Michael's personalities didn't match that. So I wanted to create a space where, as soon as you walked in, you felt positive – even when it was raining.

Tell us about the layout

For me, the most important part of this room is the garden. I wanted the kitchen to look like two arrows at the end. I cantilevered the ovens to overshoot the units, and the island also tapers at the same point. It invites you to look at the garden.

How did you arrange the units and appliances?

I design by numbers so, if you look at the plan, I have

three tall units beside the ovens, then three ovens, supported by three vertical studs, and the sink is on top of three units. On the reverse of the island there are three breakfast bar stools. I call it a design trinity.

Talk us through the lighting scheme

All the lighting is colour changing. The ceiling slots are backlit with LEDs. The skylights, the area above the ovens and the reverse of the island are all lit up in the evening with colour-changing lights.

Which details are you most pleased with?

The island. I really like how it cuts away and exposes the heart of the kitchen, the orange glass. I wanted it to be more of an artwork than purely functional.

TOP

Cook central

Lili specified only the basic appliances, but Colin included a pair of ovens as the central feature of the mid-height units. A hob and sink have been integrated into the island unit (above left)

ABOVE

Industrial style

A desire for a modern space influenced Lili's choice of industrial materials in the kitchen, such as the concrete floor and exposed brickwork, which mirrors the wall that encloses the garden



Contrasting styles

The couple had previously lived in a modern apartment and, although their house dates from the 1800s, they craved a more modern feel for the extension

'It's a fashionable kitchen but very individual – it screams of the Lili and Michael's personalities. They're stylish people who love to socialise at home' Colin Wong

ABOVE TOP *Coffee break*

These luxury appliances were added to balance out the bank of ovens

ABOVE *Inside out*

Light fills the room thanks to an abundance of glass. In summer, the doors on both sides slide away to open the dining space completely to the garden

The details

CABINETRY ClassicArt handleless units in Satin White by Häcker of Germany, £11,000, from Development Direct

SURFACES Silestone Quartz Suede Yukon worktops, from £400sq m; toughened-glass splashbacks, £180sq m; polished concrete floor, £110sq m, all Development Direct

APPLIANCES Built-in slide-and-hide single electric oven, £731; built-in combi oven, £675; gas hob, £390; warming drawer, £331; built-in coffee machine, £1,173; fully

integrated fridge, £577; fully integrated freezer, £374; dishwasher, £609, all Neff

SINK AND TAP Supra single-bowl sink, £173, Blanco. Planar tap, £250, Franke

FINISHING TOUCHES Vitra Eames DSW side chair, £328, John Lewis. For wooden chairs like these ones try Zeitraum Morph, £459 each; the Knoll Platner dining table, £2,748, is also similar, both Nest. Try Londoncows.co.uk for a rug like this one, around £220. Sensio colour-changing LED lighting, price on request, Development Direct

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Miranda Gore Browne

MIRANDA GORE BROWNE

Author & Finalist on The Great British Bake Off

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90 THE LOOK *Classic kitchens have such warmth and personality – no wonder they are always in vogue. The latest updates play to their strengths, introducing modern simplicity and some luxe finishes for timeless design that feels completely right, right now.*

96 DECORATE *If you've admired industrial schemes from afar but prefer the creature comforts at home, consider urban chic style. This edgy yet liveable look has plenty of yin with its yang.*

103 COOK *New hob technology continues to make life easier with fast induction, powerful gas and good-looking combinations of the two. It's now easier than ever to create a cook station that's totally in tune with the way you like to cook.*

PLAN... *A winning layout not only makes the most of the space, it works like a dream*



Just as our expectations of kitchen layouts have changed radically over the last 20 years, they have evolved to suit modern needs and tastes. The 'work triangle' – the arrangement of fridge, sink and cooker in this pattern to

cut down on legwork – is still used, but there's a move to a more linear approach inspired by the long work benches of restaurant kitchens. Room shape and size also play a vital part, as do lifestyle and aesthetics – an open scheme, for example, has to look fabulous, as it's all on show.



The classic L-shaped layout gains extra prep space and the convenience of a double-galley set-up through the addition of an L-shaped island. Martin Moore's New Classic kitchen starts from £35,000

TIME AND SPACE

Kitchen designers will not only work with the space available, they'll ask plenty of questions along the way to help understand how you use the room. 'First and foremost, a kitchen is a working area so always start your design by looking at how you function when cooking meals,' advises interior designer Phoebe Oldrey of Smartstyle Interiors. 'Evaluate what you need to have immediately to hand and any other activities, such as children's homework, that may go on in there.' More and more, a kitchen designer will also be looking at the space as a whole, and that often includes a dining area, and perhaps a living zone and a play area, too.

Your designer may suggest ways to improve the existing space, such as removing a wall or relocating a window to create the best outcome and additional light. Where the kitchen is part of an extension project, it pays to get a designer on board early, preferably at the planning stage so they can work in tandem with the architect. Little tweaks at this stage will ensure fewer stumbling blocks and compromises later. The same applies if you're working with an interior designer as well as or instead of an architect or kitchen specialist.

CLASSIC FORMULAS

When it comes to arranging kitchen furniture, there have been fewer changes over the years than you might expect. The classic layouts of old: the galley, double galley, L-shape and U-shape, were popular because they worked – today they just find themselves in a different setting. Galleys once made the most of every inch of space in the small narrow kitchens common in old British housing stock. Today, a more expansive version hugs one wall of an open-plan space, while a long, parallel island or workbench completes the double-galley footprint.

'Galleys work well in open-plan kitchens, as they take up less space than any other layouts,' says Jamee Kong, senior designer at DesignSpace London. 'It's the most efficient layout as it acts as a production line and follows the workflow: washing, preparation, cooking, serving, clearing up,' agrees kitchen designer Laurence Pidgeon. 'If the room is long enough – at least 2400mm – these tasks can all be located on one side in a straight and rational sequence, leaving the other side for refrigeration, eye-level appliances, storage and additional workspace – it's a cook's nirvana!'

ISLANDS FOR LIFE

'A striking island will naturally draw your eye into the space, and the furniture can provide a perfect cooking platform where friends and family are able to gather round as you prepare food and cook,' says Andrew Hall of Woodstock Furniture. And the island has proved to be a pivotal addition to galley, L- and U-shaped layouts, allowing the rooms themselves to grow, while maintaining a comfortable work area where everything is



A compact work triangle is best for this U-shaped layout. Pure Kitchen in Blanched Almond, from £17,500, John Lewis of Hungerford

'THE WORK TRIANGLE BECOMES UNIQUE TO TWO PATHS – ONE FOR WORKING, WHICH MAY LIFESTYLE FUNCTIONS, SUCH AS RELAXING



A clever design and layout enables five separate zones to work together. Cook's Kitchen by Mark Wilkinson, in the company's eco paints Fernlea, Beach and Rosa, from £40,000

POPULAR CONFIGURATIONS

Galley A single run of units with the fridge, oven and sink placed at intervals with adequate workspace in between. Sliding doors and shelving can minimise issues with clearance in narrow rooms, and consider dish drawers over a standard dishwasher, which can create a pinch point.

Double galley Two parallel runs of units, often with the sink, cooker and fridge arranged in a classic triangle shape. Makes the most efficient use of a narrow room, but is popular now as a linear kitchen with a long parallel island in open-plan schemes. Two parallel islands can also create this set-up in a large space. Allow a minimum of 1200mm between runs.

Island The mainstay of the open-plan kitchen, an island adds workspace, storage and functionality, and cuts down the distance between tasks. It can also create a useful boundary between the work and socialising spaces in the kitchen, and the addition of bar stools makes it a sociable spot, too.

L-shaped Units running along two walls at right angles. A popular option for medium-sized schemes with or without an island in the centre, it works well for more than one cook. In larger rooms, this can work with a table and chairs at the centre.

L-shaped island In large kitchens, consider an L-shaped island running parallel to an L-shape of cabinetry. This gives optimum work space and also allows for a seating area to be created within the crook of the L.

U-shaped Kitchen cabinetry running along three walls is less common now that kitchens are larger, but we still see this layout as an L-shaped kitchen with an island attached (a peninsula) or a double galley with one closed end. Use clever internal storage, such as carousels, to improve access to corner cupboards.

Angles and curves Spacious kitchens can handle more dramatic shapes, such as lozenge-shaped islands with curves, boomerang islands (an L-shaped island with curves) and islands set at angles. This not only creates a dynamic look, it can also help direct traffic in a larger area.



Using the full height of the room boosts the storage in this single-galley scheme. The Systemat kitchen in Basalt Grey with 19mm colour-matched glass worktop. Laurence Pidgeon Kitchens cost from £20,000

THE USERS AND CAN, IN SOME INSTANCES, BE HAVE MORE THAN THREE POINTS WITH MORE AND SOCIALISING’ *Graeme Smith, senior designer, Second Nature*



A secondary prep sink in the island and a pot filler tap above the hob are practical additions close to key work zones. Kitchen by American interior designer, Martyn Lawrence Bullard – try Tom Howley and Matrix Kitchens in the UK for similar



Bespoke kitchen specialists Mowlem & Co worked closely with designer Louise Bradley to get the best from this unusual space. Kitchens from £30,000

‘IN SMALL KITCHENS, PENINSULAS CAN WORK AS WELL AS ISLANDS AND ARE GREAT STORAGE SOLUTIONS’ *Andy Green, In-Toto Cambridge*



Small can be functional as well as beautiful. Everything is within easy reach in a compact double-galley kitchen, Callerton Valencia units in hi-gloss white by Kitchens International, cabinetry priced from £15,000

in reach. ‘Islands are increasingly popular and act as central distribution points for incoming shopping, food preparation and outgoing dishes, thereby breaking the traditional ergonomic triangle,’ says designer Tim Jasper.

‘In terms of size, the ideal island unit is between 900mm and 1200mm deep, and situated at least 900mm from another work surface, cabinet or wall,’ adds Robert Burnett, head of design at Holloways of Ludlow. ‘We recommend that the minimum width of a room for an island unit is 3.3m to allow enough space between worktops and facilitate movement around the island.’ A new favourite for larger kitchens is the inverted L-shaped island with banquette-style seating nestling within. This is great for gregarious cooks as it puts diners right in the centre of the action, but in a comfortable and convivial way, plus there’s little danger of guests getting under the cook’s feet.

LINEAR THINKING

While the work triangle is still used to create efficient paths between tasks, it’s not the only option. Blum’s version, ‘Dynamic Space’, is based on task stations organised on a more circuitous – clockwise or anti-clockwise – route. Others favour the conveyor belt approach with task stations ordered in row – an idea inspired by the workings of restaurant kitchens, and one behind the trend for full-height storage cupboards paired with long cook’s tables. This has the benefit of creating a lot of storage, but giving a streamlined finish that can be very appealing in an open space. There is a growing trend towards kitchens that look like living room furniture, or which are hidden from view behind sliding doors.

ROOM WITH A VIEW

There tends to be a logic about where to place the kitchen in an open space. ‘Step back and visualise what the room is telling you: the scale, the location of windows, architectural features and the use of adjacent rooms,’ suggests designer and architect Johnny Grey. ‘Make interventions by all means – move a door, a window, add a skylight, take a wall out – then establish the “sweet spot”. This is the best place in the kitchen to be – the command position – and it should be awarded to the cook.’

Many kitchen-diners have doors to the garden, which provide a relaxing backdrop to dining but should still be visible from the kitchen area if possible – plenty of modern schemes have been designed around a fabulous view. This is a very popular open-plan layout as it allows the cook to interact with guests, or keep an eye on the children at the table doing homework or playing outdoors.

GO WITH THE FLOW

The way traffic moves in a space takes on increased importance when the area is large and fulfils

Coming next issue: Reinventing space

several functions. Kitchen-diners and open-plan rooms tend to have more than one entrance – maybe three or four – so it’s important to think where natural paths fall and to ensure they are not obstructed or dangerous. For instance, in a room with doors to the garden, there will be natural routes from the kitchen entrance to these doors and from the work zone to the doors. ‘We review the entrance and exits into the room, marry them up to key elements, such as the fridge and sink, and draw routes,’ continues Johnny Grey. ‘The rule of thumb is you can bend that walking line but you can’t block it.’

A key consideration is keeping children and guests out of the work zone, and an easy way to achieve this is with a double-galley layout in which the island creates a barrier. Aim to place the fridge and some accessible storage, such as a breakfast cupboard, at this boundary so that children and guests can help themselves to drinks without ever venturing into the work area.

SUPPORTING CLAIMS

Of course all this is in an ideal world, working with a blank canvas, which is seldom the case. Today’s spacious kitchens are often the result of extensions or structural work, and supporting pillars, architectural features and channels for surfaces have a habit of stubbornly bagging the most inconvenient spot. ‘Anchoring an island unit to a supporting pillar is one way to get around the problem, particularly if it can be disguised with a larger surround and then used for another purpose, for example mounting a flat-screen TV,’ says Peter Humphrey, design director at Humphrey Munson.

Any designer worth their salt won’t only work around a difficult feature but will turn it into a positive – a chimney breast to house a range cooker, a false ceiling that hides a supporting RSJ along with all the cabling for the electrics – or, at the very least, be able to balance the scheme so that tricky features are less noticeable. Unusual spaces, such as round kitchens and higgledy piggledy walls, will really benefit from bespoke furniture to get the best from the space.

WHAT GOES WHERE

It’s helpful to have a thorough clear out before you invest in a new kitchen. This gives you a chance to figure out exactly what you need to store, how often things are used and where you need them to be. Designers will add extra cupboard space for future acquisitions and then set about plotting storage in a natural order. Lesser-used gadgets will be allocated high up or to the furthest cupboards; chinaware and pans close to the dishwasher for ease of putting away; utensils, spices and oils near the cooker, and larder cupboards next to the fridge to make putting groceries away efficient.

For stockist details go to page 150



An organised U-shape with full-height units has a place for everything, while a central island puts a worksurface close to each appliance. White Parapan and light-grey oak units with Glacier White Corian worktops by Mowlem & Co, from £30,000

‘COHERENT SHAPES, MATERIALS, TEXTURES AND COLOURS CAN BE USED TO UNITE THE DIFFERENT ZONES’ *Laurence Pidgeon, designer*



A modern design sits comfortably within a characterful barn, thanks to the strategic placing of the island, which incorporates old and new supporting pillars. This Avant White kitchen is available through Second Nature, from £11,000

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SURFACE... *Good kitchen flooring combines practicality and durability with stylish looks*

Of all the rooms, the kitchen is usually the busiest, so floors need to be practical and hardwearing, but there's no need for them to be dull. As kitchens often blend with dining areas into larger, open-plan spaces, the floor can be a great way of uniting different areas of the room, creating a cohesive finish. It's a good idea to choose your floor at the same time as your cabinetry, putting together a palette of colours and materials. You might choose neutral tiles in large formats, or those with pattern and texture to add a burst of colour. 'Natural flooring such as stone and wood is always popular and gives authenticity,' says Louisa Morgan, director of Mandarin Stone. Pointing out a current trend, 'mimica' porcelains, which re-create the look of natural materials, she says: 'Developments in digital image technology have allowed excellent introductions, which mimic the look of wood, stone, and even concrete. They offer a hardwearing and often more affordable option.'

Cementing it

Traditional encaustic tiles feature decorative patterns that are stamped in, rather than laid on top, so their designs are harder wearing. Bert & May uses a traditional handmade process to create these 20 x 20cm Flecha cement tiles. They are non-porous and durable, making them suitable for high-traffic areas such as kitchens. From £222sq m.



Paint and pattern

Porcelain timber-effect tiles combine the look of wood with the hard-wearing quality of porcelain. Spanish manufacturer Vives has taken the idea further with the plank-shaped 21.8 x 89.3cm Caria-R Blanco tiles that replicate the look of a painted-wood floor, with a soft geometric pattern. From £66sq m.



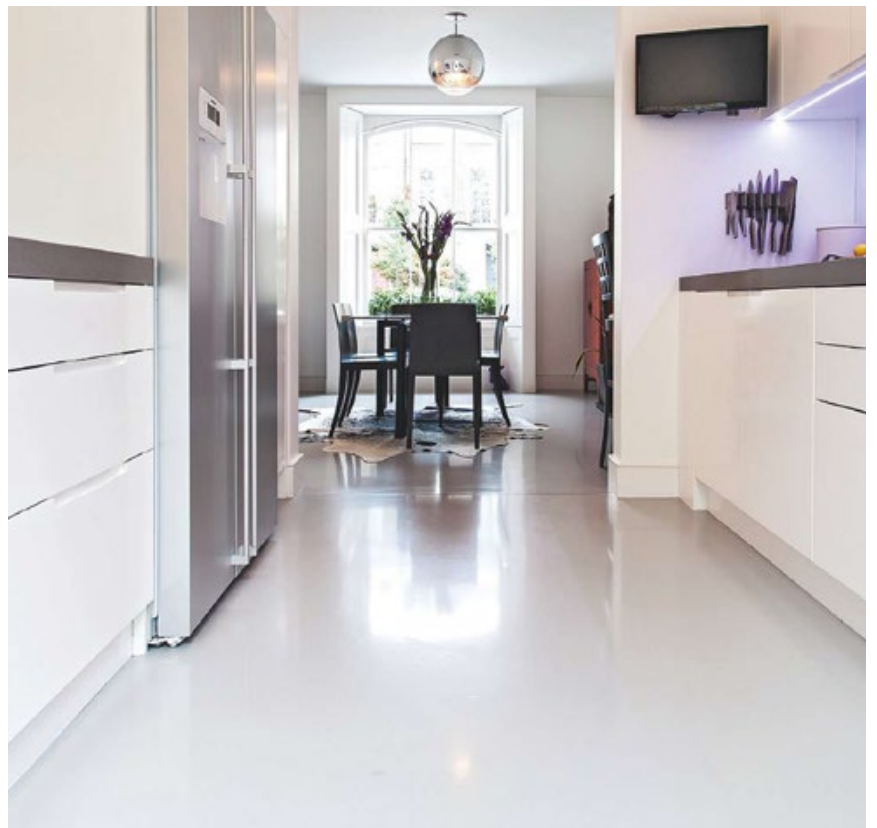
Wild wood

These HeartOak planks come from the core of the trunk, so they reflect the full strength of the tree and come in impressively wide 50cm boards, in lengths of up to 6m. Natural cracks are preserved with butterfly joints of oak, and the planks treated with an organic oil for ease of maintenance. From £226.80sq m, Dinesen.



Turn to stone

Natural stone has a distinctive character and individuality – no two tiles are the same. Its natural beauty and colour works well in both traditional and contemporary homes, especially in larger formats. These Aged Muscat limestone tiles are shown here in random sizes, from £72sq m, Martin Moore Stone.



Poured floor

For a smooth, seamless aesthetic, try poured-resin floors. Made from polyurethane resin or biopolymers, the liquid mix is poured over the floor and left to set, creating durable, waterproof, easy-clean flooring, which works particularly well in large open-plan areas. Fusion seamless resin floor, from £120sq m, Senso.



Comfort factor

Luxury vinyl can feel softer, warmer and more comfortable underfoot than wood or tiles, and it is designed to be durable and low maintenance. Here, Noche Travertine recreates the look of stone, finished with Concrete Pale stripping to divide the tiles and create a feature finish. Available in tile sizes from 30.48 x 30.48cm, from £37.50sq m, Amtico.



Go with the grain

Mimica porcelain tiles are becoming increasingly realistic, making them a popular choice thanks to their durability and easy maintenance. These Argento Sycamore porcelain 'planks' from £54sq m, Mandarin Stone, look just like the real thing, are available in a large 120 x 30cm format and require no sealing.



Passion for patchwork

Consider mixing and matching decorative tiles to create a patchwork pattern. These Retro 20 x 20cm tiles come in nine different designs. Made of hard-wearing hi-tech porcelain, they have a gently-aged appearance, thanks to their muted palette and weathered-look finish. From £110.40sq m, Surface Tiles.



Geometry class

Use an interesting shape to add dimension to your floor. These ceramic hexagonal Buckfastleigh Revival Grey tiles, 18.5 x 18.5cm, from £97.68sq m, Original Style, are used with simple white grout lines, accentuating the design. The effect is enhanced by a border of tile pieces that frame the floor.



Put out the flags

Create the rustic beauty of flagstones with antique-effect or tumbled stone tiles. The softer corners and slightly distressed finish creates a naturally beautiful look, enhanced by the use of random formats. Chollo Beige Limestone tiles with hand-worked face and edge, 50cm x random running lengths, from £66.60sq m, Stone Age.

‘Don’t be afraid of using natural materials – the way they wear and age is all part of their beauty’

Matt Podesta, director, Podesta Furniture

Perfect plane

Dating back to the 16th century, parquet has long been a traditional favourite, combining the warmth of wood with an elegant pattern. Thanks to modern manufacturing techniques, it’s now possible to experiment with textures and colours to create contemporary designs, such as this bespoke Oak Chevron parquet with a surface planed finish designed to enhance the natural grain and produce a modern, textured look, £134.85sq m, 10.5 x 50cm, Ecora.

Smooth operator

Linoleum gets lots of points because of its green credentials. Made from renewable, natural materials, it's smooth underfoot, easy to maintain and also biodegradable at the end of its lifespan. Marmoleum Solid 3706 Beton contains 97 per cent natural raw materials, from £19.99sq m, Forbo.



MAKE IT WORK FOR YOU

CHOOSE YOUR MATERIAL

– modern porcelain tiles tend to be the most hard-wearing, and they are waterproof, stain resistant and scratchproof, as well as easy to clean. Natural stone will last a lifetime if properly installed and treated, but it's porous and must be sealed. Solid and engineered wood floors are warm and offer

character, but tend to be less durable (although solid floors can often be refinished).

GENERALLY, PORCELAIN

and stone tiles are fine with underfloor heating, but wood floors are not always suitable (wood generally prefers stable conditions). Check with your flooring supplier before buying.

PATTERNED AND SHAPED

tiles can be used to create a feature floor, or to 'zone' an area, such as underneath a dining table. Natural colours and worn-in, aged looks are ideal for a vintage patchwork effect, while parquet patterns in stained and textured timbers are a modern take on this traditional and elegant floor.

SUB-FLOORS NEED TO BE

clean, dry, structurally sound and flat, and most suppliers recommend using an installer experienced in the flooring being applied (especially for natural stone). Larger format tiles and patterned layouts usually take longer to fit and incur more wastage, so are generally more expensive.

CLEAN... *Dishwashers and laundry appliances are more efficient than ever, saving you time and money*

No more juggling plates – just knock on the A+++ rated G6995 SCVi XXL K2O integrated dishwasher and the door will automatically open. This 14-place setting model has a 6.5 litre auto-wash setting and 11 other modes including extra quiet, £2,250, Miele

Doing the dishes and laundry have always been chores, but they're a lot easier with a good appliance. Washing machines and dryers have improved in recent years with advances in speed and efficiency – you can now wash a week's laundry in one load and get a shirt clean in just 15 minutes. As for dishwashers, today's models can clean a dinner-party worth of dishes using as little as 6.5 litres of water. Capacity and performance are also better, while new spray technology and steam cleaning make it possible to wash your glassware in the same cycles as yesterday's scrambled egg pan.

FEATURE CHRIS HASLAM

LAUNDRY CARE

Freestanding washing machines generally have the most exciting features and largest capacity but unless you've got a utility room, they're difficult to conceal. Designs are getting better, but the majority are still white boxes. Fully integrated models hide behind a cabinet door – while they lack the headline features of their freestanding cousins, performance is improving fast.

PROGRAMS

The latest machines are packed with dozens of laundry cycle options covering everything from baby clothes, denim, duvets and waterproof clothing to even a Woolmark-approved wash for knitwear. Look for models such as the LG 6 Motion, which can spin the drum in six different patterns to help detergent penetrate a greater range of fabrics. It's worth taking the time to identify which programs are most useful. With some brands, you can even design your own cycles, as Joan Fraser, product development manager at

Smeg UK, explains: 'Consumers can reduce the time of a cycle to fit around their lifestyle and they can also adjust the temperature and spin speed to suit their needs.'

COLD WASHING

To meet strict energy-efficiency targets, new machines have to include a 20°C cycle. Some detergents can struggle to break down dirt in cooler water but features such as the Samsung Ecobubble froths detergent with air and water before the cycle begins, generating bubbles that penetrate faster. Similarly with the

AEG ÖKOMix, the detergent is first added to water to make an instant, concentrated wash mix.

STEAM

Introduced by LG a few years ago, steam is now a popular feature on many hi-tech washers. By injecting steam at certain times during the cycle, water can penetrate fabrics faster, use less water and speed up the process. Look for a 'refresh' function, which uses steam to knock out creases and remove any odours without the need to do a full wash – perfect for items worn only for a short period of time.

CAPACITY

A 6kg load should be sufficient for a couple or small family, while an 8kg is fine for a large family. That said, thanks to sensor washing – which controls the amount of water and energy used, no matter how large the load – investing in 10, 11 and even 12kg machines means you can reduce the number of washes done each week without wasting energy. 'In some 10kg machines you can fit up to 75 items in one load, meaning you can wash less often by washing more at once,' says Lisa Keogh, product manager at Electrolux Fabric Care.



Grundig's A+ rated GTN38240GC 8kg tumble dryer has heat pump technology and sensor washing for just £549. The A+++ rated GWN59450C 9kg washing machine has anti-allergy cycles, sensor washing and steam injection, £519

Smart appliances

Some of the latest machines are able to download programs from the internet and be controlled from your smart phone. For now, connected appliances are limited to a few brands, but this is changing. The LG app, for example, allows you to access new cycles so you can upgrade the machine to suit your needs, while Samsungs' can call an engineer if it detects a possible problem.

Samsung's WW9000 A+++ rated washing machine has a capacity of 10kg and a 5in colour touchscreen, £1,499



The WMV 960WPS washing machine has a 9kg capacity and is 40% greener than A+++, £1,999, Miele



**‘STEAM CLEANING IS
GREAT FOR REFRESHING
CLOTHES, REMOVING
CREASES AND REDUCING
THE NEED FOR IRONING
BY UP TO 50 PER CENT’**

*Sian Bailey, laundry category
manager, Miele*

Super value considering the features include 23 cycles and A+++ efficiency, the Gorenje Advanced Line W9665K 9kg washing machine costs just £430

AUTO-DOSING

Instead of a traditional detergent drawer, brands such as Samsung, Miele and Siemens now add detergent and softener to the wash for you. By dosing automatically, Miele estimates it can cut detergent consumption by up to 30 per cent and improve cleaning performance.

TUMBLE DRYERS

Condensing tumble dryers have all but replaced vented models (requiring an outside wall and pipe to drain water away). They work by condensing the warm, damp air from your laundry into water and depositing it into a container, which has to be regularly emptied. Features such as Sensor drying – which monitors and adjusts every stage of the cycle – and condensing and heat pump technology, means that efficient

A+++ designs are now available to buy. A heat pumps works by passing warm, dry air through the drum, which absorbs moisture from clothes, and the air is then cooled using a refrigerant rather than air or water. The heat generated is then used during the drying process, so your clothes dry quicker and use less energy.

WASHER-DRYERS

The washer-dryer is undoubtedly convenient where space is an issue, but 2-in-1 appliances often only manage average results. Things are improving however; AEG has the first model with heat pump technology, which can save as much as £70 a year on running costs. Other benefits come with new larger washing capacities that allow you to dry more, too – look for 9kg wash/6kg dry to help save time.

WINNING FEATURES

Spin speed 1,400, 1,600 or even 1,800rpm will help cut drying time.

Reliability The average washing machine gets used 270 times a year, so choose one with an extended guarantee. Five-year warranties are available, while Miele designs all its machines to last 20 years.

Quick wash Some cycles can take just 14 minutes to wash a 2kg load.

Stain removal For dirty clothes, a stain-removal setting can soak fabrics for longer to improve results.

Rinse hold A good way to avoid creases, the machine holds the washing in the final clean rinse water before spinning it. Great for doing a wash while you pop out – simply run the final spin when you get home.

Safety lock Children can't open the door when this is activated.

Delay timer Handy if you don't want to leave clean wet clothes in the drum all day.

Wool/delicates A wool cycle reduces the speed in which the drum spins so that clothing isn't stretched.



With two independent drawers, the Fisher & Paykel DD60DDFH7 can run different programs for top and bottom – great for washing glassware and pans simultaneously, £1,199



The built-in BDIF616 dishwasher from Baumatic has a generous 16-place setting capacity and an adjustable top rack, £499



Samsung's Chef Collection dishwasher sprays water vertically in a forward and backward motion to ensure all surfaces are washed equally, £899

DISHWASHING

It wasn't long ago that dishwashers were seen as energy wasters but, thanks to stricter regulations and clever new technology, the best full-sized appliance can clean well over 100 items in just six litres of water.

CAPACITY

The typical two-rack layout is evolving to make even more space. A few years ago, 12 place settings (one place setting is a small plate, large plate, dish, cup and saucer and cutlery) was considered spacious, but you can now buy models with space for 17. 'Having a dedicated cutlery drawer frees up room in the lower basket so you can fit in additional place settings and lets you put large amounts of cutlery into the drawer at once,' explains Martin Wilson, product manager of dishcare at Electrolux Major Appliances. Compact 45cm designs have space for up to

10 place settings, which is great for a small family, but you may struggle with larger pans. If you can squeeze in a full-sized 60cm model you'll benefit from better features all-round. Look for the following: make sure your dinner plates will fit – take one into the store if you're not sure. Candy's CDIM 3653 can manage 8 x 34.5cm plates, the largest on the market; foldable top and bottom racks are essential. Top-of-the-line models will have adjustable height drawers to help cater for long-stemmed glasses and big pans; dish-drawer designs (try Fisher & Paykel) look stunning and make it easier to

empty without bending, but capacity is limited compared to a full-sized model. Unlike washing machines, freestanding and built-in dishwashers are on a par for both capacity and features.

PROGRAMS

Your dishwasher should come with a few basic cycles including 'normal' for mixed loads, 'intensive' hot wash for really dirty items, 'quick' 15-30-minute cycle and 'eco', which uses the least water. It's worth remembering that, although efficient, the eco cycle is the longest. As with washing machines, sensor

cleaning is improving results – sensors monitor how dirty dishes are and adjust the cycle accordingly, using just the right temperature and amount of water. Miele dishwashers can even measure the murkiness (turbidity) of the water using a light beam and adjust the number of water changes needed during the cycle.

NOISE REDUCTION

The constant sloshing of a dishwasher can be distracting in an open-plan kitchen, so try to look for the quietest design possible. Measured in decibels, anything less than 40dB is extremely quiet.

EFFICIENCY

As of 2014, washing machines must be A+++ (most energy efficient), A++, A+ or A (least energy efficient). The energy-saving difference between A+++ and A is significant, around £19 per year according to Beko. Confusingly, two models with the same energy rating can consume different amounts of energy and water. Compare labels carefully; the ÖKOMix from AEG, for example, uses 50 per cent less energy than many other A+++ machines. But the

way you use your machine will affect its efficiency. Reducing the temperature from 60°C to 40°C can save 40 per cent in running costs. A main wash program on a full-sized dishwasher uses between 10 and 20 litres of water. Some eco modes use less than six litres but still clean a full load. Try Bosch. Choose A++ or A+++ if possible. Consumption figures vary, but savings are possible. The Miele G 6000 A+++ design can be powered by solar panels, reducing energy use by a further 40 per cent.

ESSENTIAL TICK LIST

HALF LOAD Useful for cleaning large pans as it only uses the bottom tray.

DELAY START Turn the dishwasher on at night to take advantage of cheaper electricity.

FLOOD PROTECTION Sensors help prevent leaks even when the dishwasher is off, and some can cut off the water if a leak is detected.

DISPLAY A countdown timer will let you know when the cycle will be finished.

CHILD LOCK Prevents kids turning on or opening the dishwasher by accident.

FAN DRYING While cheaper dishwashers use the residual heat from the water to dry dishes, more expensive models have pumps or fans to remove moisture.

‘WHILE DISHWASHERS NOW USE AS LITTLE AS 6.5 LITRES FOR A WASH CYCLE, HAND-WASHING CAN USE UP TO 88 LITRES TO DO THE SAME AMOUNT OF DISHES’

Martin Wilson, product manager, AEG



The Gorenje GV63214UK fully integrated dishwasher has 14 place settings across three baskets, six programs, A+ energy rating and only uses 12 litres of water for a full cycle, £360

Latest features

Steam cleaning LG claims that steam is the best way to remove dried-on stains and won't leave streaks or scratch delicate glassware.

Floor display Siemens offers a range of integrated models that use a beam of light to project the time remaining and cycle status onto the kitchen floor.

Auto-open At the end of the cycle, Miele models will open automatically to help speed up drying.

Super spray The unique WaterWall spray arm from Samsung uses a sweeping wall of pressurised water instead of the traditional rotating design, which is great for blasting away dirt.

THE LOOK... *The new classic kitchen design updates traditional bespoke furniture with cleaner lines*

TRENDS COME AND GO, BUT THE CLASSIC kitchen remains a constant, with perhaps a new wood tone or paint shade to suit the current fashion. It works well in all property types, from city apartments to country cottages, in conversions to spacious manor houses. Classic furniture is often bespoke, making it easier to achieve good proportions, symmetry and to best use every inch of space. It also has a feeling of permanence, a sense that it could have always been there. Part of the

popularity of classic furniture is down to key pieces such as dressers, full-height larder cupboards, deep ceramic sinks and island units; these aren't just good-looking, but also hugely practical and easily adapted to modern life. 'While the architecture of the cabinetry may echo a particular era, equipment can be state-of-the-art and tailored to your lifestyle,' says Jane Stewart, design director at Mowlem & Co. 'You can house banks of refrigeration and wine storage in a corniced, fully framed

run of furniture. Materials should be of the finest quality, but the look can be updated by details or unusual bespoke elements.' Bernard Otulakowski, MD at SieMatic UK adds: 'It's vital to coordinate colours and use a repetition of style elements. Try complementary tone-on-tone colours and materials for a modern classic look. Neutral shades such as white, grey and taupe can be interspersed with wood veneers to provide lightness and transparency, and you can even use metallics, glass and gloss finishes.'



Sense of scale

Super-sizing an island is a practical choice for larger households or for those who love to entertain. Long and narrow gives the most useable space, and as stone has size (and weight) limitations, consider mixing it with wood for worktops. Handpainted hardwood Aldeburgh kitchen, from £35,000, Davonport.



Modern mood

Try the mix-and-match approach, not only blending painted finishes with wood, but combining framed doors with flat-fronted drawers – it will give a modern edge, but with warmth. Here, tall cabinetry houses built-in appliances for a sleek finish. Silverstone kitchen in solid bleached oak and warm grey, from £40,000, Teddy.

Style simplicity

Inspired by the Georgian farmhouse kitchen, this Classic English scheme by deVOL is a timeless look. The open layout, plenty of light and pale finishes create a relaxed mood that's set for modern life. Simplicity is the key with clean lines throughout, down to the modern take on the classic range cooker. Bespoke kitchens, from £25,000.





Raising the grain

Natural wood finishes are enjoying an update with unusual surface finishes – distressed, limed, sawn and even pickled effects. This kitchen was inspired by an oversized dresser in a French eatery, and is created in pickled oak and a painted finish. Brasserie kitchen, from £40,000, Smallbone of Devizes.



The dark side

A painted kitchen fits perfectly with country style but can also be smartly classic. The current colour trend is for dark shades – inky blues, indigos and plums. Use a bold shade to pick out an island or run of tall cupboards. Kitchen painted in Ammonite and Stiffkey Blue by Farrow & Ball, from £25,000, Holloways of Ludlow.



On the tiles

There is a vast choice of patterned tiles around at the moment, which are ideal for bringing classic appeal to a kitchen. Think creatively about how you use them – mix-and-match layouts are popular, or consider tiling an entire wall for impact. Shaker Kitchen, £203, for a 600mm hi-line base unit, by Linda Barker for Wren.



Into the groove

Tongue-and-groove panelling offers creative solutions in the kitchen. As well as an affordable finish you can paint to suit, it's a great way to cover imperfect walls and to box in wires and pipes. Here, it's updated with a fresh yellow paint scheme that extends to create a 'splashback'. Handmade kitchens, from £7,000, British Standard.



Sitting pretty

Going bespoke allows for unique features such as a built-in seating area. This scheme has all the elements of a country kitchen – tongue-and-groove panelling, a range cooker and farmhouse-style chairs – updated with a modern twist. The Artisan kitchen, from £25,000, John Lewis of Hungerford.



Industrial elements

A Shaker-style cabinet door is a good starting point for a modern classic kitchen and, here, it is painted in a neutral shade. The surprise comes in the pairing with more industrial elements such as exposed brickwork and extraction ducting for a modern, warehouse scheme. Kitchens, from £18,000, Harvey Jones.

Home with the range

Classic kitchens are traditionally built around a range cooker. Insetting into a chimney breast is a good design solution and creates a strong focal point – some designers will even create a false surround to achieve this look. Teamed with a shapely island that draws the eye, it's a winning combination in this Hartford kitchen, priced from £35,000, by Tom Howley.





On show

Classics such as natural wood finishes and glazed cabinetry can be used in fresh ways for a kitchen that is familiar as well as bold and new. This Highbury bespoke kitchen in solid oak and wood laminate includes a bespoke powder-coated steel and brushed bleached oak table, from £25,200, Sybaris Interiors.



Light touch

The cook's table has made a welcome return. Based on the classic staple of Georgian kitchens, it's lighter than a standard island and has an unfitted feel, which keeps the look clean and current. Newport kitchen painted in Pointing and Hardwick White by Farrow & Ball, from £30,000, Sola Kitchens.

'Contemporary-classic is the standout trend for 2015, from the muted colours of a more historic palette used across contemporary designs and finishes, to modern, hi-gloss fronts on country-style cabinets'

Malo Tasle, director of In-House, Schüller

MAKE IT WORK FOR YOU

IT'S ALL ABOUT FRESHENING THE LOOK WITH UP-TO-DATE DETAILS such as taps, handles, light fittings, bar stools, and pared-back accessories. Choose modern shapes and materials and look for clean-lined, contemporary takes on classics, such as the ceramic sink.

KEEP IT SIMPLE AND STEER CLEAR OF OVERLY FUSSY DETAILS. The modern classic takes its cue from the streamlined simplicity of current kitchen designs, but retains all the warmth

that comes with natural wood and painted cabinetry. Stick to simple, in-frame Shaker-style doors and consider a cook's table in place of a standard island.

GET THE LOOK WITH MODERN MATERIALS. Composites for worktops and splashbacks are a great alternative to stone surfaces and are available in convincing colourways, complete with veined patterns. They are tough, hygienic and can be joined seamlessly for a flawless finish.

KEEP THE LOOK AIRY BY AVOIDING WALL CUPBOARDS. Today's generous kitchens will usually provide plenty of storage in the base cupboards and islands – especially with clever internal storage systems that improve accessibility. Where space is tighter, a row of tall cupboards packs a lot of storage into a small space. Modern means clutter-free.

MAKE YOUR KITCHEN WORK HARDER WITH THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY for appliances – both on built-in and freestanding

pieces such as a range cooker. Invest in good sound and lighting schemes at the beginning of your project so that they can be fully integrated into your finished kitchen scheme.

A FRESH COLOUR PALETTE WILL UPDATE AN EXISTING PAINTED KITCHEN. Shades of grey are still very much in fashion, teamed with off-whites and bolder shades of indigo and soft black. Look to historic palettes in paint ranges – they will look fresher on simpler lines.

DECORATE...

Urban chic combines industrial elements with natural materials and vintage accessories for easy-going charm

DOWN TO EARTH

The shade and texture in the glaze of this chinaware is earthy with an elegant silhouette

Nordic Sea tableware, from £7.30 for a small side plate; Tvis cutlery, from £9 for a teaspoon; Zola cutting board, £46, all Broste Copenhagen at House of Fraser

HOUSE MIX

Don't be afraid to mix different materials. Here, a plaster finish contrasts with the whitewashed brick for an injection of industrial chic, while a vintage Ercol sofa softens the look

Putney wall clock, Dia45cm, £95, Newgate Clocks, is similar. Stretched *Eat Halloran Springs* canvas, 60 x 90cm, £175, Christopher Griffith at Surface View. Roger bar stools, H76 x W45 x D34cm, £115 each, French Connection



BRIGHT & BEAUTIFUL

Who says dining chairs have to match? Being playful with colour and shape is a much more contemporary and fun approach. Seek out interesting shapes and mix materials and shades

Nagasaki lacquered-steel chair in Yellow, H74 x W50 x D54cm, £350, Mathieu Matégot for Gubi, The Conran Shop. Ester walnut and polyester chair with armrests, from £1,371, S Bigi for Porada at Harrods. Beetle steel and veneer chair in Kvadrat canvas in green with black leather piping, £585, GamFratesi for Gubi at Viaduct. Aiken oak dining table, £700, Conran for Marks & Spencer. Vintage 1950s industrial convex mirror with painted steel frame, £2,400, Circus Antiques. Deux print; Homme print; both £45 unframed, Le Art at Rockett St George

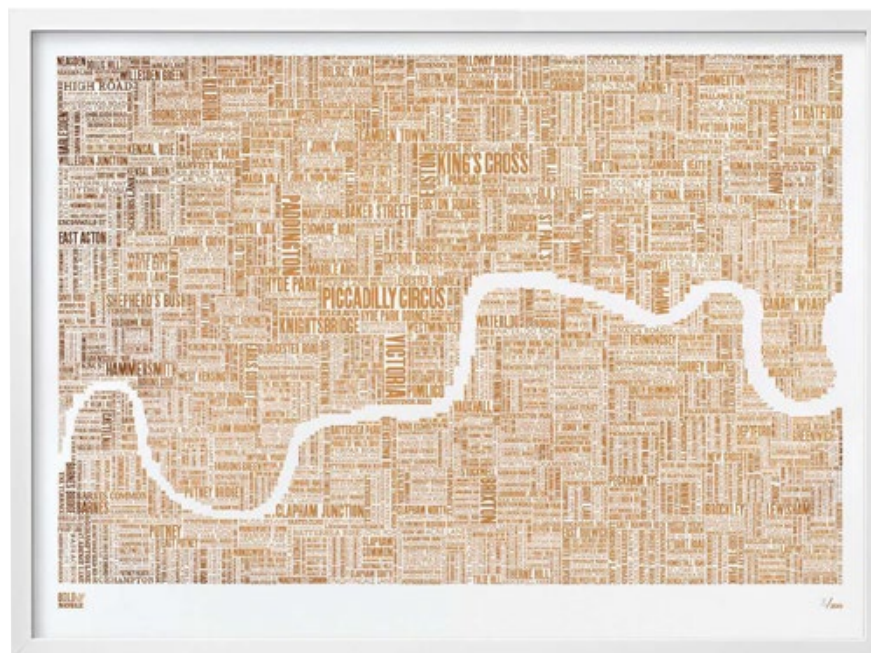




The perfect perch
Swivel stool in copper, H75.5 x Dia30cm, £130, Cox & Cox



Exposed bulb pendants add industrial style
Vidon pendants, 180cm with canopy, £74.20 each, Clippings.com



Pay homage to your favourite city with a modern map print
London foil-blocked type limited-edition map in orange, 50 x 70cm, £120 Bold & Noble



A Mid-Century design with 21st-century appeal
CH 825 sideboard by Hans Wegner, H80.8 x W200 x D49cm, £5,182, Twentytwentyone



Make a bold statement with an on-trend colour
Another rug in Yellow/Amber, 90 x 140cm, £159, The Lollipop Shoppe

COLOUR PALETTE

Yacht Blue active emulsion, £41 for 2.5 litres, Sanderson

Teal flat emulsion, £42 for 2.5 litres, Zoffany

Cat's Cradle claypaint, £35 for 2.5 litres, Earthborn

Lemon chiffon 2 paint mixing matt, £25 for 2.5 litres, Dulux

Mister David absolute matt emulsion, £37 for 2.5 litres, Little Greene

India Yellow estate emulsion, £38 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball

Da Vinci Velvet Walls & Ceilings matt emulsion, £22 for 2.5 litres, Valspar



A factory-style trolley adds edge to a kitchen.

Industrial kitchen trolley, H73 x W60 x D40cm, £250, Rockett St George

An eye-catching wallpaper that mimics designs on concrete.

Concrete Trellis wallcovering, from £45sq m, Tektura



MAKE A SCENE

Pale walls, a simple blind and a weathered wood floor provide a backdrop for interesting furniture shapes.

Lowlight table is similar, H72 x W180 x D100, £3,350, Twentytwentyone. Olly stool, H46.5 x Dia34.5cm, £195,



A great outline that lends definition to a dining area.

Dining Table Three, H72 x W160 x D100cm, £1,390, Another Country

A graphic pattern will temper austere industrial pieces.

Block-printed floor cushion, cotton, 65cm sq, £59, Toast

MAKE IT WORK

LAYER UP MATERIALS and finishes to take the harsh edge off modern cabinetry and industrial materials. Wood flooring or accessories, and woven soft furnishings will introduce warmth.

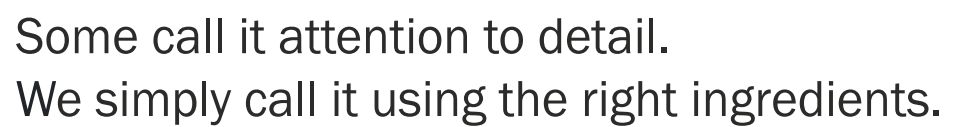
CONSIDER LIGHTING as part of the overall room design. Exposed wire bulbs and powder-coated pendants have an industrial feel, but choose bright colours to prevent your scheme feeling stark.

PICK A NEUTRAL PALETTE with occasional bursts of pattern and bold colour. The urban look should be pared-back yet relaxed.

TEAM THE OLD WITH THE NEW. Recycled woods and

vintage factory lighting look great against bare walls and smooth concrete flooring.

HANDCRAFTED ACCESSORIES are a simple way to add personal charm to a utilitarian scheme.



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The CAST Line range of 30cm-wide domino hobs, designed by Patricia Urquiola for Beko, is available in brushed stainless steel or cool matt black, £299 each

COOK.. *Choose a hob to suit your cooking style – there are striking options across all fuel types*

Whatever you like to cook and however you like to cook it, a hard-working hob is an essential appliance. Features once reserved for the pros are now available for everyday use, from searing hot griddles and wok burners to continuous induction cooking. As well as advancing technology, leading brands are working hard to create designs that enhance the kitchen, create a striking centrepiece and even blend seamlessly into the worktop.



Miele's KM6389, £2,400, has five rings, two of which can be bridged to create a large continuous zone. Pair with a Con@ctivity 2.0 extractor for auto-operation and improved efficiency



This innovative new induction hob from the Samsung Chef Collection has a virtual flame to help visualise how hot the pan is for precise control



For a professional look and result, try Siemens' ET475MY11E tepanyaki domino hob, £1,300, and powerful ER326AB70E wok burner, £450

COOKING WITH GAS

Gas remains the nation's favourite type of hob thanks to the combination of speed, heat and affordability, and there are stylish options for all budgets. As induction cooking continues to gain popularity, don't think that choosing gas means compromising on style or performance. Many professional chefs won't use anything but a powerful stainless steel cooktop, while stunning gas on glass and flush-fitted designs can give a sensational focal point.

Four rings remain the most common layout, but keen cooks will benefit from a fifth, such as a wok or triple-crown burner, which makes stir-frying and searing at high temperatures easy. Gas isn't as energy efficient as induction, but technology is improving – both Hotpoint and Smeg offer burners that focus more heat on the pan, saving energy.

Look for extra-wide hobs that fit into a standard 60cm worktop cut-out to gain more cooking space without compromising storage. Linear designs, with three or more burners

in a row rather than a grid – try Foster Spa – look great mounted on an island, while the slim dimensions maximise worktop space.

INDUCTION EXPLAINED

With induction technology you can wave goodbye to burnt-on food and questionable controllability. Hobs are fast, safe, easy to clean and exceptionally efficient, and even the most basic models boast digital displays and timers that switch off individual rings when finished. No wonder more and more of us are turning to them. 'Induction hob sales are growing three times faster than other designs,' confirms Robbie Prestedge, product manager of built-in appliances at Electrolux.

Induction hobs don't generate heat themselves – instead, a coil of wire creates a powerful magnetic field, which heats the metal in the pan. So it's the pan, not the hob that gets hot. An induction hob can be up to 90 per cent efficient compared to gas, which can be as low as 55 per cent. Only pans with

a ferrous-metal base will work – you can test yours with a fridge magnet. Stainless steel and cast iron will work but copper, glass and aluminium won't.

Basic four-burner 60cm-wide induction hobs have halved in price in recent years, with models available from just £180. But spend a little more and you'll benefit from a host of hi-tech, time- and labour-saving features, such as auto-boil and simmer. Just set and forget, safe in the knowledge the pan won't boil over. At the top end – try Siemens – you'll find futuristic touchscreens that give intuitive access to a wealth of timers and heating controls. The Gorenje IQCook has dedicated buttons for steam, boil, slow cook and fry.

ZONELESS COOKING

The biggest innovation in induction-hob technology sees designers replacing the traditional four-burner grid format with large, multi-pan hot zones. These large continuous or zoneless cooking areas work like a hot

'WITH THE MOST ADVANCED INDUCTION HOB, YOU CAN SET A TIMER, RAPID HEAT UP AND PUT ON HOLD. SOME EVEN SAVE ENERGY BY USING RESIDUAL HEAT TO FINISH THE COOKING' *Robbie Prestedge, product manager of built-in appliances, Electrolux*

FEATURE CHRIS HASLAM



With Foster Spa's Modular System Touch3 hob, three individual induction zones and a control panel that can be positioned wherever you like on your worktop for style and convenience, price on application

NEED TO KNOW

- Many induction hobs require a higher than standard 13.5amp electricity connection. Check with an electrician before buying.
- Don't forget extraction, which is vital for tackling grease and odours. Miele has a range of compatible hoods and hobs that communicate wirelessly, providing great automatic extraction.
- Can't decide which size hob you need? Measure your two most-used pans and make sure they can fit comfortably side by side.
- If you're a fan of the flambé, you'll need to stick to gas or invest in a chef's blowtorch.
- If a member of your family has a pacemaker fitted, induction hobs are not recommended.
- Induction hobs cool far quicker than traditional ceramic and gas, and most have child locks for additional safety.

plate in a professional kitchen. But if you move a pan the hob tracks it and maintains a consistent temperature.

BEST OF BOTH

Love the showmanship of gas but the controllability of induction? You can now have both with a range of hobs featuring a mixture of induction and gas burners. Whirlpool, Gorenje and AEG all offer stylish black-glass designs.

DOMINO HOB

Create a custom hob top to suit a multitude of cooking styles with a set of dominos. Choose from wok burners, standard gas and induction rings or get creative with barbecue grills, griddle plates, steamers and even deep-fat fryers. Dominos are ideal for compact spaces or islands, where a full-sized hob isn't practical. If the latest curved kitchen units tempt you, individual hobs can be installed to maintain the sweeping lines.

Make sure you buy from the same manufacturer to ensure a seamless fit and matching trim. Most now sell a complete range of individual hobs, but be aware that each will require individual wiring so installation is significantly more expensive than a standard hob. For island units, think about pairing with a downdraft extractor,

which disappears into the worktop when not required, and update an existing traditional range cooker with a super-fast induction hot plate for the best in old and new technology. If you want the convenience of a steamer, choose a plumbed-in model where water can be quickly drained away – see Wolf.

PROFESSIONAL FEATURES

Thanks to brands such as Wolf and La Cornue, you can now enjoy searing heat and total temperature accuracy at home. Their cooktops are made from commercial-grade stainless steel and are available in dozens of configurations – choose from griddles and French tops alongside gas burners.

Professional gas rings can be twice as powerful as domestic designs. As Craig Davies, MD of Wolf, explains, 'Our 5.3kW dual-stacked sealed burners are like two burners in one. The upper set offers high heat for fast boiling and sautéing, and the set below controls the lowest flame to melt chocolate or keep delicate sauces warm without burning.' Alternatively, a French top, popular in commercial kitchens, provides a flat cooking surface with a powerful gas burner underneath. This allows the user to cook an entire meal on the surface, moving pans around to quickly and easily access the differing temperature zones.

KEY CONTACTS

- BEKO** (0845 600 4904, beko.co.uk) hobs boast many features found on top-range appliances for a fraction of the cost.
- BOSCH** (0844 892 8979, boschappliances.co.uk) supplies an extensive range of hobs across all budgets. The latest are designed to match their built-in oven collection.
- CAPLE** (0117 938 1900, caple.co.uk) For one of the few flush-fitted individual-ring induction hobs available.
- ELECTROLUX** (03445 613613, electrolux.co.uk) offers a wide range of great-value modern appliances with helpful features.
- FOSTER SPA** (fosterspa.com) specialises in sleek designer hobs, including individual induction rings that fit into the worktop.
- GAGGENAU** (0844 892 8988, gaggenau.com) boasts one of the best ranges of domino hobs on the market.
- LA CORNUE** (lacornue.com/en) builds bespoke cooking islands and luxury freestanding hobs.
- MIELE** (0330 160 6600, miele.co.uk) manufactures some of the most technically advanced hobs available.
- WOLF** (0845 250 0010, subzero-wolf.co.uk) leads the market in chef-quality, high-power cooktops and domino hobs.

BRINGING HEART TO EVERY HOME

In a choice of sizes and with ultimate controllability, there's a modern-day AGA for all lifestyles, from country house to city apartment

The 3-oven AGA Dual Control, from £9,775, offers flexible cooking and energy saving options

It's hard to beat the beauty of the cast-iron range cooker, with its classic good looks and welcoming ambient heat. The AGA is far from the sole preserve of the country cook. Modern technology with smartphone-operated controls, and the range of sizing, which now includes a neat little 60cm model that fits into a standard cooker slot, make it a winning option for all homes.

Life in the city

Launched last year, the AGA City60 is the baby of the family, bringing all the brilliant benefits of radiant heat cooking to the compact kitchen. At just 60cm wide, it features two ovens – a top cavity that can switch between baking and roasting, and a bottom one for simmering. A single hotplate, which has both boiling and simmering modes, has room for at least three pans – simply move them around to adjust the temperature from simmer to boil. The AGA City60 comes in 14 colours, and the room-vented design offers the flexibility to place it wherever you want. And should you move home, it's all set to pack up and go with you.

Beauty to come home to

Big or small (models go up to five ovens), it's the marriage of great heritage and cutting-edge technology that makes an AGA as desirable today as it's always been. The latest models have hi-tech controls that switch easily between an AGA cooker's characteristic warmth and ambience to low-energy settings, hotplate-only cooking and independently operated ovens, offering all the flexibility modern life demands.

Efficiency you control

The AGA Total Control looks like a classic cast-iron AGA but has a state-of-the-art control panel to provide the following:

- Independently-operated ovens and hotplates (standard AGA ovens and hotplates are always on).
- The 3-oven model has controllable roasting, baking and simmering ovens. The 5-oven version has an additional slow cooking/warming oven.
- The AGA iTotal Control can be operated wirelessly via a smartphone.

The AGA Dual Control cooker is ideal for those who love a warm, cosy kitchen but who also want to benefit from reduced running costs:

- The ovens can be fully on or run on low-energy mode.
- You can switch the ovens off completely and just cook on the hotplates; they can also be turned off and on independently.
- An AGA Dual Control costs up to 50% less to run than a traditional 13-amp AGA cooker. And all AGA cookers perform beautifully, giving exceptional results that are hard to replicate using a conventional oven. Cakes are fluffier, roasts are moister, potatoes are crisper – this is cooking at a whole new level.

For more details, and a one-to-one demonstration, call 0845 712 5207 or visit agaliving.com



Home to great cooking

BK Promotion

Compact and efficient, the new 2-oven AGA City60, £4,995, is designed with smaller schemes in mind



Available in an array of statement shades, the 3-oven AGA Total Control boasts a wealth of hi-tech features and functions, perfect for 21st-century living, from £10,695



Best of both worlds

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SURFACES IN HENRIETTE VON
STOCKHAUSEN'S STRIKINGLY
ECLECTIC SCHEME

Feature **ALIX O'NEILL**
Photography **MARK BOLTON & ALEXANDER JAMES**

Project profile

THE OWNERS Henriette von Stockhausen, an interior architect, her husband, Mark, and their children, Ben, 12, Henry, 6, and Lily, 4

THEIR HOME An 18th-century stable block in Dorset

THE PROJECT A whole house renovation, including extending and remodelling the kitchen

ROOM SIZE 12 x 8.5m

DESIGNER Henriette von Stockhausen, VSP Interiors

CABINETRY Urban Linear in white lacquer, Magnet. For similar try Integra White, £412 for a 600mm base unit

BUDGET Around £15,000, excluding building work





Light and shade

The combination of poured and polished concrete against a dark grey palette creates a dramatic look

Renovating an entire property in less than three months is a challenge for even the most cool-headed professional, especially when the house is theirs. But interior architect Henriette von Stockhausen was unfazed by the task of transforming an 18th-century Dorset stable block into a modern home for herself, her husband, Mark and their children. In fact, the project came at the right time. 'Our last house was an old cottage with low ceilings, too tiny for growing children,' says Henriette. 'Our kitchen was also quite small, with an Aga that was constantly on, even in summer, as it was our only cooking option, so it was unbearably hot.'

The couple didn't have long to contemplate their move. 'There was a lot of interest in the property, so we had to act quickly,' says Henriette. 'As

we were living with friends, we had only 11 weeks to finish the job.' The walls separating four rooms were removed to create a large space opening on to an outside dining area and terrace. For the design, Henriette preferred contemporary over classic. 'I didn't want yet another Shaker-style country kitchen,' she says. 'I was looking for something more suited to the modern, open-plan space I was after.'

She chose simple white, streamlined cabinetry from Magnet and, as the room benefits from plenty of light, Henriette felt she could opt for bold grey walls. Treasured paintings and antiques provided the finishing touches, softening the industrial nature of the scheme. The result is the harmonious mix of old and new that Henriette was determined to achieve. 'I love my kitchen,' she says. 'It's exactly what I had in my head.'

'The concrete for the worktops was pumped in through the window into crates and cast in situ by my builder'

Art of glass

Open shelving around the cooking area allows Henriette to display her striking glassware collection



Curio corner

A collection of African woven baskets and various decorative objects add interest to this area





Into the light

Pendants suspended at different levels draw the eye to the centre of the kitchen



Feathered feature

A dark wall can take a brightly coloured artwork, drawing the eye and adding contrast to the scheme

DESIGN SOLUTION *Henriette explains...*

What did you want most from your new kitchen?

I knew I wanted to have lots of light and at least a 3m table for informal entertaining. I didn't want to see the appliances, hence the wall of units behind which everything is discreetly housed.

How did you decide on a design scheme and colour palette?

It was in my head and, as I was my own designer, it worked out very quickly and easily. I particularly like the dark grey paint – it gives the scheme character and impact. I didn't want any cupboards, just drawers, as I find it much easier to access and store things. Magnet provided the best drawers I could find – everything seemed to line up nicely.

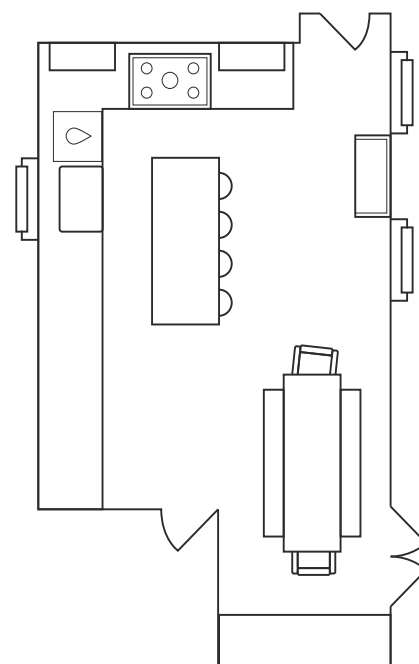
Tell us about the finishes you used

I've always loved concrete and wanted to try this concrete worktop that I'd seen all over the place in America. I opted for a rough, stony texture on top of the units, then a polished concrete floor, with underfloor heating, for contrast. People think concrete is really harsh and grey, but it has so many different nuances. Hi-gloss lacquer units were chosen, again, to provide contrast.

What makes this scheme special?

I think it's to do with the juxtaposition of old and new. I've got some really great antiques, which are balanced by the industrial feel of the concrete worktops and flooring, and the dark colour on the walls.

The layout





On display

The antique tapestry, rustic wooden table and mismatched seating stop the dining area looking too formal

‘I’ve used two very different antique chairs for the dining area, which helps create a really striking look’

The details

CABINETRY Urban Linear units in white lacquer – for similar try Integra White, £412 for a 600mm base unit, Magnet

SURFACES Polished concrete worktop, from £300m; poured concrete flooring, from £250sq m, both VSP Interiors

APPLIANCES Cluny 100cm-wide range cooker, from £3,970, Lacanche. All other appliances (not seen), Miele

SINKS AND TAPS Classic Butler sink 600, £387, Shaws of Darwen, is similar. Also try the Zeus kitchen tap, £199, Optima Bathroom Solutions

FINISHING TOUCHES Wall paint, Dark Lead intelligent matt emulsion, £43.50 for 2.5 litres, Little Greene. For similar setting try the Refectory 10-seater dining table, £1,850; Refectory bench, £550, both Frank Hudson at John Lewis. The metal

adjustable swivel bar stools are similar, £99 each; black distressed warehouse wall lights, £37.50 each, all Rockett St George. Schtu-Moon pendants, £285.60 each, Catellani & Smith at Made in Design. Bench and cushion fabrics, Window Rock in turquoise, £235m, Ralph Lauren Home. Similar baskets, from £97 each, Africa Direct. Painting, price on application, Rory Nugent. Similar settle bench, from £365, sellingantiques.co.uk. Lascelles Glasgow Station wall clock, £37.95, John Lewis, is similar. Take a look at Verdure Fontainebleau original French Aubusson tapestry, £15,800, Hines of Oxford. Sandown Roman blind, £144 for 100cm sq, The Natural Curtain Company is comparable. Similar pendants (over dining table), Studio in satin steel, £69 each, Made. Similar armchair (right of dining table) Taynton wing chair in Stone fabric, from £1,455, Wesley-Barrell. Weathered oak armchair, £523, La Maison Chic, is a match

Kitchen - White Star with Matt Dakkar Tullymore Doors
Mrs Farmer, Tonbridge, Kent



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Project profile

THE OWNERS Jane Hammond, her husband, Toby, and their sons, Mark, 18, and James, 15

THEIR HOME Edwardian semi-detached house in north London

THE PROJECT Extending and updating the existing kitchen, and replacing the draughty French windows to create a warm, family-friendly space

ROOM SIZE 5.1 x 4.8m (kitchen area only)

DESIGNER Ben Hawkswell at Roundhouse

CABINETRY Shark kitchen in white matt lacquer and bookmatched oak veneer, around £35,000, Roundhouse

BUDGET Undisclosed

SECOND CHANCE

Lessons learnt from Jane and Toby Hammond's first kitchen upgrade ensured everything was just right the next time around

Feature HAYLEY GILBERT *Photography* ROBERT SANDERSON



Fresh update

White matt-lacquered units from Roundhouse keep the formerly dark room light and modern. A run of horizontal grain oak-veneer wall cupboards breaks up the look, while adding warmth, texture and interest



Heavy metal

The bank of integrated Gaggenau cooling appliances makes a bold feature. Other stainless steel touches, including a tambour-fronted cupboard and bar stools, create a cohesive feel

To keep up with the demands of a growing family, Jane and Toby Hammond knew the time had come to make their kitchen bigger, brighter and more welcoming. When they bought the house in 2001, the room was originally a large formal reception area at the back of the house with French windows leading onto the garden. 'Because our sons (Mark, now 18, and Toby, 15) were little then, we wanted the kitchen there instead so we could enjoy watching them playing in the garden,' says Jane. 'So we relocated the kitchen and installed new cabinetry, which was good quality and lasted well but dated quickly. We also decided to keep the attractive French windows, which was a mistake because they were draughty and beginning to rot, meaning the room was impossible

to heat. The wooden flooring was always cold, too, and the lights were nearly always on because it was very dark in there.'

In 2010, it was time for a change again. 'We thought we'd just upgrade the room with new patio doors, but it was pointless installing expensive doors in an area where other things were wrong,' says Jane. 'As well as opting for a warm, comfortable and bright kitchen, we also decided to create more space.' So a side extension was added and large sliding doors fitted, along with underfloor heating and stylish, timeless new cabinetry. 'Architect Gaby Avendano of Paper Project and Roundhouse kitchen company were recommended to us, but we discovered ID Systems' sliding doors and Gaggenau appliances at the Grand Designs show at Excel,' says Jane. 'We were very impressed with them all.'



TOP RIGHT

Touch control

The wall-mounted iPad is also handy for when the couple want to quickly look up recipes

BELOW RIGHT

Easy access

Plenty of practical storage has been included in the new scheme, such as an extra-wide utensils drawer beneath the induction hob



DESIGN SOLUTION

Jane explains...

How was your working relationship with Roundhouse?

There was an immediate empathy between us and kitchen designer Ben Hawkswell. We visited two branches and spent hours there, but were always made to feel comfortable. Ben was excellent to work with and cooperated well with us and the builders.

Did you have a particular style of cabinetry in mind?

Yes, we wanted a modern, clean and fashionable design that also satisfied our need for light. It was very expensive but good value for money as it should last well. We opted for a central island because it's a very social spot and practical, too.

Tell us about the storage solutions

The larder is extremely large, with three deep drawers and shelves set into the doors for easy access. It's lit by two LEDs activated by opening the doors. There are cavernous drawers all around the kitchen and large wall cupboards set at eye level. I particularly like the tambour utility garage, as I can hide everything from view.

What was your must-have item?

Our old fridge freezer was much too small for family use, and we were very impressed with the size and quality of Gaggenau appliances. They're so large, everything else had to fit in around them – they really set the tone of the room.

You seem to have a good range of technology...

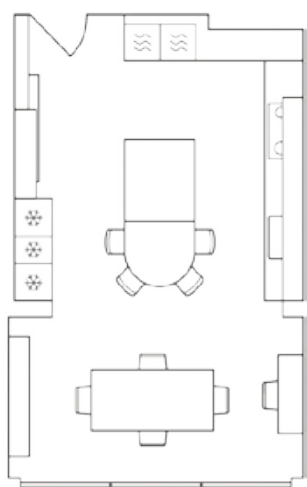
Yes, there's an iPad set into a dock in the wall. It's removable and plays all the music we could possibly want wirelessly. There's also a sound system with ceiling speakers and a hidden subwoofer.

‘WE TRIED TO SAVE MONEY THE FIRST TIME WE DID UP THE KITCHEN, WHICH WAS A FALSE ECONOMY. THIS TIME WE WANTED TO GET THE PROJECT RIGHT’





The layout



TOP LEFT

Hidden assets

With deep drawers below, shelving above and the racks on the doors, the double-fronted larder provides heaps of food storage space

Perfect setting

The large patio doors provide an ideal backdrop to the dining table. They also maximise light and insulate the room, while also offering great views and direct garden access



Family space

The couple have created a multifunctional scheme for working, dining and unwinding



The details

CABINETRY White matt-lacquer Shark handleless units with chamfered edge, and bookmatched oak horizontal-grain veneer cupboards, around £35,500, Roundhouse

SURFACES 50mm white quartz composite worktops with mitred edge, £960lin m; solid-oak whole-stave breakfast bar, £720lin m; glass splashback back-painted in Dream, £1,080sq m, all Roundhouse. Pietra Plana limestone floor tiles, around £120sq m, Stone Age. Wall paint, Pure Brilliant White matt emulsion, £21 for 2.5 litres, Dulux

APPLIANCES Built-in single oven, £1,114; compact combination steam oven, £1,319; induction hob, £1,580; built-in warming drawer, £444; fully integrated dishwasher, all Neff. Integrated fridge,

£4,124; integrated freezer, £4,740; integrated Vario wine storage, £3,706, all Gaggenau

SINK AND TAPS Zerox 700-U stainless steel undermounted single-bowl sink, £470; Master-S mini tap in chrome, £353, both Blanco. Modern boiling-water tap in chrome, £870, Quooker

FINISHING TOUCHES Norden extendable table, £275; and Bertil birch chairs, £25 each, all Ikea, are similar. Adriatic white bar stool, £45, Lakeland Furniture, is identical to these. Smart TV, £1,800, Samsung. Apple iPad, £469; iDock, £700, Sonos ceiling speakers, £600; subwoofer, £250, all from The Hi-End. Mason Cash Hearts pink mixing bowl, £13.99, Dunelm, has this look

UNIQUE ANGLE

AN ERGONOMICALLY SCULPTED ISLAND WITH INTEGRAL DINING ENSURES
RONA AND ADAM HALL'S NEW KITCHEN IS STRICTLY A ONE-OFF

Feature LINDA CLAYTON *Photography* NICHOLAS YARSLEY

Bright lights

Use of a bold colour, such as these vibrant light pendants, draws the eye through the room and increases the sense of space



‘Lowering one end of the island allowed a true dining table solution that’s at a more convenient and comfortable height for eating’

Like many Edwardian terraces in London, Rona and Adam Hall’s home has a rear ground-floor extension. ‘We saw many of these while we were house hunting,’ recalls Rona. ‘What struck us about this one was how the architects had maximised the space, following the gradient of the neighbouring boundary wall to gain inches.’

The existing kitchen had an awkward layout with minimal storage and workspace, but the Halls’ real bugbear was the lack of soft seating. Reducing the size of the kitchen or dining area wasn’t an option. ‘We often have friends around for brunch or a light supper and didn’t want to have to decamp to the formal dining room,’ explains Rona. Extending further wasn’t feasible without swallowing up the

garden, and the property’s main staircase prevented any internal expansion. The solution had to be found within the existing room.

Faced with the challenge of making the space work harder, Rona and Adam decided to call in the experts. ‘We realised that a bespoke fit could make all the difference,’ says Rona.

Asking around for recommendations, they were invited to see a friend’s new kitchen. Recently installed by Holloways of Ludlow, it had the level of detail and obvious quality the couple were looking for. ‘Every cabinet and surface was made to measure in the company’s workshops and it really showed in the results,’ says Rona. ‘Like ours, their house wasn’t that large but it didn’t feel cramped, which is exactly what we hoped to achieve.’

Project profile

THE OWNERS Rona Hall, who works in publishing, her husband Adam, a chartered surveyor, and their 14-year-old daughter Anya

THEIR HOME A five-bedroom Edwardian terrace in southeast London

THE PROJECT A rear extension with glass doors on two sides has elongated the original kitchen-diner to make space for soft seating

ROOM SIZE 8.4 x 3.6m (at its widest point)

DESIGNER Martin Smith, Holloways of Ludlow Kitchens

CABINETRY Bespoke units spray-painted white to match the Glacier White Corian island, prices start from £25,000, Holloways of Ludlow

BUDGET Around £80,000, excluding building work

Solid structure

Thanks to its virtually invisible joints, the Corian island appears to be carved from one solid block. 'In reality it's a jigsaw of 26 pieces that we assembled in three sections for transportation and then made the remaining joins on site,' says designer Martin Smith

DESIGN SOLUTION *Designer Martin Smith explains...*

How did you approach this kitchen design?

It's often a good idea to be led or inspired by the property itself and that's exactly what happened here. The sloping wall in the corner of the extension initially felt like a quirky detail that was going to be a hindrance, but actually it started a train of thought that resulted in the use of similar angles across the space – particularly the dynamic island design.

What layout options did you explore?

To fit three zones in one tight area, we needed to ensure there was a clear 'corridor' for the family to easily traverse the space. To accommodate a decent dining table, the obvious solution was to attach it to the island but we were worried that the dining chairs would obstruct access to the sofas and the garden beyond. Angling the dining table parallel to the line of the chamfered corner wall in the TV area introduces symmetry and opens up the flow. The island also helps to keep the cooking space tight. Installing all the full-height units – including the fridge freezer – around the corner as you enter the room helps to minimise their impact and offers plenty of storage.

Can you explain how the island was actually built

First we used a 3D-modelling computer package to create an accurate representation of the island's triangulated faceted shape. We wanted to maximise the worktop, minimise the base profile and ensure the resulting structure was stable and strong. Thus, the side panels taper slightly to the floor and the underside of the table tapers sharply inwards to allow for leg space, then outwards again to form a wider base for support. As a Corian fabricator, we knew it was the best material to achieve such unusual angles and the split-level top. The island is made up of 26 individually cut pieces, from a mix of 12mm and 9mm-thick Corian sheets, all seamlessly joined. The result is a bespoke self-supporting structure.

In what other ways have you maximised space in here?

We couldn't go for this kitchen on looks alone, it had to provide good storage, too. Inside its seamlessly bonded Corian shell, the island is essentially hollow. On the kitchen side of the island, we have a run of cabinets that conceal a 60cm-wide fully-integrated dishwasher, two 35-litre capacity bins, and an undercounter wine fridge. On top is a 60cm-wide sink with a boiling-water tap.

Which other materials and finishes did you select?

All the kitchen cabinets were spray-painted in our workshop to carefully match the Corian in sheen and colour. We then added splashes of colour to break up the space. For example, the black toughened glass splashback ties in with the iron cooktop of the range cooker, while the amber of the light pendants is carried through to the soft furnishings.

How did a bespoke solution benefit this space?

It allowed us to respond to the challenges of the architecture and it's resulted in a unique look. While we will use the techniques composed to design and manufacture this kitchen again, the next space and the next client will have different needs. Ultimately this design is the correct response to the space and works perfectly with all the other elements.



Tall order

A full-height slimline cabinet accommodates all the family's crockery and glassware in one space



RIGHT FROM TOP *Flat fronts*

Recessed handles create a streamlined corridor between the cooking and living spaces

Black magic

The splashback is made from toughened glass that was spray-painted in black to match the cooktop



The details

CABINETRY White spray-painted bespoke cabinetry with carcasses made from white laminate MDF, from £25,000, Holloways of Ludlow Kitchens

APPLIANCES Range cooker, £3,988, Mercury. Built-in microwave, £349; fridge freezer, £2,999, both Siemens. Canopy hood, £900, Blanco by Gutmann. Undercounter wine fridge, £2,100, Miele

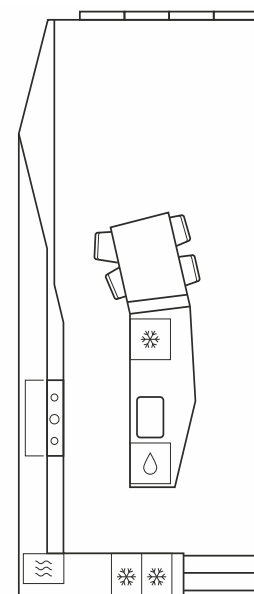
SURFACES Glacier White worktops, £310lin m, Corian. Black-painted glass splashback, £366sq m, plus £840 for template, delivery and fitting (only available as part of a kitchen), Holloways of Ludlow. Walls painted in Hardwick White estate emulsion, £36 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. For similar flooring try

Magma beige matt porcelain floor tiles, £12.09sq m, Crown Tiles

SINK AND TAPS Tara Classic tap with mixer spray, £721, Dornbracht. Composite undermounted sink in Glacier White Corian, prices start from £150. Design boiling-water tap in chrome, £890, Quooker

FINISHING TOUCHES Fly-Fly pendant lights, £416 each, Holloways of Ludlow. For similar dining chairs, try Asta, £115 each, John Lewis. Fargo sofa, from £3,140, Bo Concept. Kitchen Craft jam pan, £28, Amazon. Twist-top storage jars, from £4.50, Kilner. Plates on wall, vintage Midwinter design by Terence Conran, try Ebay. Line rug by Woodnotes, from £595, Skandium

The layout



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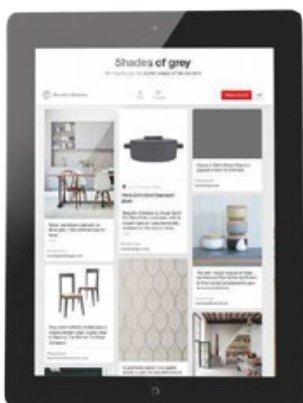


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Plan a **BEAUTIFUL BATHROOM**

Find ideas and inspiration for this all-important room
in our one-off designer bathrooms special

WRITER LINDA CLAYTON

NOW, YOU MIGHT BE SURPRISED TO SEE A BATHROOM SPECIAL nestled in among all this kitchen loveliness but, in our experience, one big project often leads to another, and there is a logic to undertaking kitchen and bathroom projects at the same time while the plumbers, plasterers, tilers and electricians are all on site. Plus, so much thought goes into setting the style for the kitchen – certainly far more analysis of how you use the space, understanding your household's particular foibles and how your aesthetics come together – than any other room, it seems a pity not to roll this out further to your family bathroom or en suite. Perhaps being clever with space in the kitchen will even inspire you to find room to create a much-longed-for en suite! Whatever your project, I hope that you find our bathroom special useful and inspiring.

Helen
HELEN STONE EDITOR

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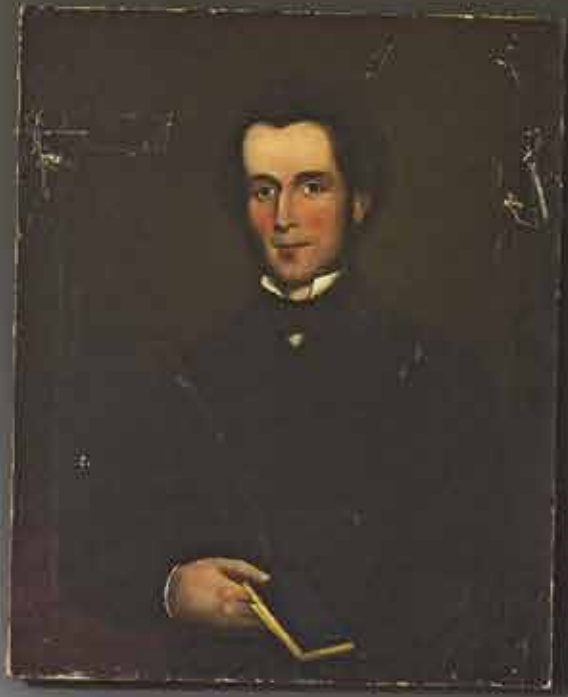
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Take a dynamic approach to grey by layering several shades and textures in the same space. Fired Earth hits the right note with this striking montage featuring its Canterbury bath in a new metallic finish with feet painted in Mercury, £3,950; Bridgehampton honed marble floor tiles, £104.90sq m; wall painted in Mercury matt emulsion, £35.50 for 2.5 litres.



LOOKS TO ADMIRE



A new bathroom is a great opportunity to make the most of your space in style

Interiors trends have more influence on bathrooms than ever, especially in master suites. The main forecasts emerge in spring and autumn, with predictions coming from colour forecasters, leading manufacturers and the wider interiors and fashion industries, while specialist design directions for bathrooms come from the big international trade shows. The good news is that 2015 is looking particularly exciting, with plenty of fresh ideas emerging, as well as some great updates on classic themes.

WARM METAL

Chrome is a timeless choice but there's a marked trend for warmer metal finishes, mainly on brassware, basins and baths. The new metals are soft and distressed, such as burnished gold, beaten copper and worn pewter, which work beautifully with the wider fashion for natural surfaces. Look at Samuel Heath's Country Bronze option in its Style Moderne range or William Holland's rusty-look Patina effect on its copper baths. Another 'soft' alternative to chrome is nickel. It's not as reflective as chrome nor as hot as bronze, and it's especially good on classical fittings. At the other end of the spectrum, there's also a trend for glamorous and glitzy polished copper and gold such as Vitra's new Elegance range of brassware available in platinum, copper and a shiny gold. And Dornbracht has added a new Cyprum finish to its MEM range, produced from 18-carat fine gold and copper. 'It's about introducing warmth and softening bathroom design,' says Mark Booth of Dornbracht.

CHARACTER TILES

Feature tiling shows no signs of waning in popularity. Adding character and depth without consuming space, a bold tile pattern offers fantastic opportunities for creativity, no matter how small your bathroom. According to Jules Archard, sales manager at Surface, asymmetric-shaped tiles are the way forward. 'Alongside popular cube, herringbone and chevrons, the newest tile profiles look squashed and pulled out of shape, but they fit perfectly with each other,' he says; Patricia Urquiola's Tierras tile collection for Mutina is a good example. For a subtler take on bold



LEFT Satisfying our lust for patchwork and embracing 2015's hottest colour, Marsala, British Ceramic Tile's new Parian range, from £67sq m, ticks two major trend boxes. **RIGHT** Installed with flair, The Baked Tile Company's Hexagon Studio tiles, from £48sq m, will breathe fresh life into a monochrome scheme.

tiling, keep floor tiles plain and pick one or two prime areas elsewhere to make a pattern splash. British Ceramic Tile's head of design, Claire O'Brien, suggests, 'A tiled upstand along the bath or vanity top will introduce pattern and texture without a complete overhaul.'

NEW NEUTRALS

'Grey is still a huge influence,' says Balineum founder Sarah Watson. 'This year, the shade is cooler, and multiple tones are used together for a layering effect.' In response, the bathroom industry is adding grey to its portfolios of tiles, furniture, baths and even shower trays – Kaldewei reports growing interest in its Catania Grey, City Anthracite and Pasadena Grey tray options. Watson also recommends using grey as a strong foundation for adding colour flashes and contrasting highlights. Keep it on-trend with a shade highlighted in 2015 colour forecasts, namely Marsala, Copper

Blush and Berry tones. Also, look out for towels and accessories in tangerine, peach and emerald green, all strong on fashion catwalks.

BLURRING BOUNDARIES

Some trends are more conceptual, like creating bathrooms that blur the lines between washing and living. The idea of bathing in the bedroom or leaving the bathroom open to the bedroom is well established. This year's take on the concept focuses on the bathroom as a dressing room, with special emphasis on the vanity unit as a focal point. The general idea is to use furniture more associated with a bedroom to remove any hints of sterility from the bathroom. 'The designs are becoming increasingly decorative in style, leading to the bathroom as an extension of the bedroom,' says CP Hart designer Dan Cook.

STYLISH TECHNOLOGY

The established trend for wellness finally gets an update that balances the latest technology with the need to switch off. The clunky buttons and complicated controls of early digital showers are being replaced by intuitive touch-screen models, which effortlessly control scent and lighting, as well as water temperature and pressure. Steam equipment is moving from plastic pods to luxury glass enclosures with barely-there framing, while mirror cabinets fitted with waterproof TV screens and Bluetooth connections are virtually invisible when not in use. Baths can be filled using a smartphone or tablet, and improvements in domestic saunas are making home spa equipment more accessible and successful. 'The latest designs encourage the indulgent bathing you would expect to receive at an exclusive health spa,' says interior designer Lesley Taylor. Dubbed 'quiet technology', this trend embraces the digital age but in a low-key design-led way suited to a domestic setting.



LEFT Embrace eye-catching metallic finishes with Catchpole & Rye's La Provence bath, £4,800, which has a beautifully polished cast-iron exterior and traditional claw and ball feet. **RIGHT** This year's take on grey involves a vibrant colour pop, as shown here by British Ceramic Tiles' HD concrete-effect floor and wall tiles, £32sq m, and Impact Lemon upstand, £84 per 30 x 50cm tile.

BATHING BEAUTIES

Be inspired by designer room ideas to create a well-planned scheme with a splash of character

Creating a successful bathroom will be, to some degree, governed by the available space and the primary function of the room – be it family bathroom or en-suite sanctuary. While designer pieces will certainly make a statement, there is a vast choice of fixtures, fittings and surface finishes to suit all styles and budgets.

As with any design project, a mood board is a great place to start. Don't look for a bathroom

that you can faithfully recreate from tap to tile – the idea is to identify the general style that most appeals, be it achingly minimalist, timelessly traditional or somewhere in between. Also look out for clever solutions and budget-busting tips.

If you're still struggling, it's time to get expert advice. Most stores with bathroom displays will have a designer on hand but, for an in-depth service, head to a specialist retailer, an interior designer or an architect whose style you admire.

In the frame

Add a plain tiled border to patterned tiles to create a striking rug effect that draws attention to a large bathroom's generous proportions. For similar tiles try Fired Earth's Toulouse range, £224.70sq m. Meisterstück Centro Duo Oval bath, from £5,349, Kaldewei.



Set in stone

Heavily veined marble continues its reign and we love this contemporary take on the classic look, which adds modular furniture in hi-gloss finishes to the mix. Crono bath, £5,999; double wash basins, £3,122; Anthracite vanity unit, £2,473; mirror cabinet, £2,800, all Ripples.



Gilded edges

Used in moderation, rich gold accents will bring sophistication rather than bling to your bathroom. Pair this look with a slick monochrome palette for a sharp contrast that's strong and bold. In response to the gold revival, Merlyn Showering has launched a gold option to its 8 Series shower enclosure range, which starts from £1,495.



Go bespoke

In an awkward-shaped room with tricky architectural details, it can pay to invest in a custom-made solution such as this fitted bathroom suite with built-in cabinetry by Cue & Co of London. Stud walls with storage niche alcoves help separate the wet room shower and dressing area, while framing the statement bath. A similar bathroom would cost around £26,400.





Bold effects

Perhaps the most budget-friendly finish, paint allows you to be creative. Stencilling is making a comeback and will help achieve a professional look – try Cutting Edge Stencils (cuttingedgestencils.com). This graphic border was created using Slate Grey and Soft Steel Kitchen and Bathroom matt and mid-sheen emulsion, £26 for 2.5 litres, Crown Paints.



Classic elegance

With a coat of specialist bathroom paint or a good-quality eggshell, wall panelling can prove a practical alternative to tiling every surface, and help make your scheme look refined and sophisticated. Hoxton rectangular mirror, £817; Hoxton vanity with London basin, from £2,591; Greenwich bath, £5,368, all CP Hart.



Old and new

Bathroom fittings don't get much more traditional than this classic combination of Heritage Bathrooms' 1920s-inspired Granley basin with pedestal, £390, and Buckingham cast-iron bath, £1,924. However, the look is kept current thanks to an on-trend grey-green palette – try Dulux's Gooseberry Fool matt emulsion, £25 for 2.5 litres – and industrial accents.

'In bathrooms that bedroom, I like an obvious between spaces. en suites with a to the bedroom –

Rebecca James, interior



Perfect fit

Achieving a separate shower and bath doesn't have to be a shoehorning experience, as this loft room demonstrates. Using a limited palette and tucking the bath into the eaves helps the room feel spacious. Leoni shower, £570; 8 Series shower door, £189; Coates bath, £139; Metro basin, £59; Stirling basin tap, £59; Renwick wall-hung unit, £99, all Bathrooms.com.



Bathroom special | Gallery

The long game

Follow floor tiles in an exotic colour, such as this turquoise blue, into a walk-in shower area to improve the proportions and help balance out a narrow space. Komon 4 lavastone wall and floor tiles, £436sq m; Komon 4 lavastone countertop, £1,200; lavastone basin with glazed interior, £2,300, all by Fatto a Mano, available from Laurence Pidgeon.

*join the master
there to be
correlation
Try to avoid
separate identity
it's too jarring'
designer, Interior Desires*

Boutique chic

Take inspiration from five-star hotel bathrooms such as this glamorous executive suite at London's exclusive Corinthia Hotel. Featuring bespoke taps similar to Perrin & Rowe's 3706 three-hole basin set, from £409, this bathroom invokes the elegant Art Deco era using exotic marble surfaces and beautifully-crafted furniture in dark timber.





Luxury spa

An alcove has been put to great use with a lounge and starlit sky ceiling, created using fibre optics. Oort bath, £3,894, West One Bathrooms. Aquamarina and Verdi Alpi mosaic tiles, £933sq m, Via Arkadia. A similar bathroom by Roselind Wilson Design would cost £50,000.

‘To establish a layered colour palette, start by choosing one shade you love, and then identify six or so more variants of the same colour that create a lovely dialogue together’

Rebekah Caudwell,
interior designer



Warm tones

Aged copper and bronze make a striking match in this wonderfully inviting en suite by Rebecca James at Interior Desires. The bespoke shower enclosure was inspired by a British telephone box and has a bronzed steel frame. Copper bateau bath, £4,802, William Holland. Gotham double vanity stand in bronze, £2,999, Balineum. Brassware from Samuel Heath’s Style Moderne range, from £1,036 for the basin mixer taps.

MAKE IT WORK FOR YOU

SINCE STYLE IS A VERY INDIVIDUAL THING, the best bathrooms are often inspired by your existing interior preferences. A single item of furniture or one much-loved cushion is often all it takes to launch a starting point for decorating a new space.

IDEAS CAN ALSO EMERGE from playing a game of opposites. Identify what you hate about your existing bathroom or a particular

design trend, and you may find the opposite solution is exactly what you’ve been searching for.

HOTELS AND SPAS are great bathroom design resources and you don’t have to visit them in person. Most of the top hotels have professional photography on their websites for each room grade, including the bathroom facilities. Boutique hotel guides such as Mr & Mrs Smith

(mrandmrssmith.com), can be a valuable source of inspiration.

INTERIORS MAGAZINES AND DESIGN SITES such as housetohome.co.uk, theroomedit.com and pinterest.com are great places to start, and don’t immediately narrow down the look to bathrooms. A colour scheme, wallpaper or mood taken from another room idea, could be equally effective in the bathroom.

IF YOU’RE ON A TIGHT BUDGET, invest in one timeless feature piece, such as a beautiful vanity unit or roll-top bath, and then dress it up with interesting accessories that can be updated when you’re ready for a change.

ENJOY LUXURIOUS TILES by using them to cover a small area in a prime position, then choose an inexpensive colour-coordinating plain tile elsewhere.



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Luxury retreat
A clever layout enabled Tessa and Samuel to include a freestanding bath and walk-in shower. The glass enclosure maximises the feeling of space

NATURALLY BEAUTIFUL

Classic fittings and botanical tiles help make Tessa and Samuel Saunders' new bathroom feel like a long-established part of their Victorian family home

Tessa and Samuel Saunders' first contact with Sophie Rogerson and her consultancy firm RFR was when the couple tasked her to find them a bigger family home in London. They had been searching for the right property for nearly a year before deciding to get help. 'In less than six months, RFR had found us everything we wanted – a dream location with views of a common, plus beautiful architecture and plenty of space for our growing brood (Oscar, now 7, Poppy and Ella, 5, Nathan, 3, and Orla, 18 months),' recalls Tessa. 'We got along with them and they understood our style and needs. When we realised they also had an interior design division, we asked them to help with redecorating.'

While not lacking in space, like many older properties, the Saunders' new home had only one main bathroom plus a small en suite to serve seven bedrooms across three storeys. Installing new bathrooms was essential to the smooth running of the household, particularly during the morning rush. As part of the process, Tessa and Samuel were keen to gain a private sanctuary away from busy family life. Two bedrooms on the first floor were destined to become a master suite, with the rear bedroom transformed into a spacious bathroom and dressing room. 'We were prepared to lose a guest bedroom in order to enjoy really spacious – and child-free – quarters,' says Tessa.

Project profile

THE OWNERS

Tessa Saunders and her husband Samuel, who both work in corporate law, and their children Oscar, 7, twins Poppy and Ella, 5, Nathan, 3, and 18-month-old Orla

bathroom, serving the master bedroom via a dressing room, in what was previously a guest bedroom

ROOM SIZE

3 x 4m

THEIR HOME

A semi-detached Victorian townhouse in southwest London

DESIGNER

Sophie Rogerson at RFR

BUDGET

Around £20,000

THE PROJECT

A newly-established

'ALIGNING THE BATH WITH THE WINDOW HELPS ACHIEVE A SYMMETRICAL LAYOUT AND LEAVES PLENTY OF ROOM FOR THE SHOWER'



Hidden assets

A pair of decorative mirrors fitted onto wall cabinets provide discreet storage and compensate for the lack of cupboard space under the vanity unit



Style on tap

Classic taps are an elegant pairing with the marble



The heat is on

Extra controls mean the shower can be turned on and brought to temperature from outside the enclosure

DESIGN SOLUTION

Designer Sophie Rogerson explains...

Was it a difficult process turning a bedroom into a bathroom?

It certainly helped that the room is at the back of the house, and so easy to connect to the external soil stack. Then it was simply a case of running new plumbing from the en-suite bathroom above. We were replacing most of the flooring throughout the house, and the walls all needed replastering anyway, so it didn't add much work to the overall upheaval.

How did you decide on the fittings?

Samuel is tall so he asked us to install the largest walk-in shower possible and a nice deep bath. We took him and Tessa to Drummonds' showroom, next to our studio – their products have a grandeur that works very well in period properties. Our challenge was to get everything in without affecting the calm ambience.

And the colour palette?

There's quite a lot of strong colour in the rest of the house so we could afford to make the bathroom and bedroom a little calmer – a haven from the pair's busy lives. We used Farrow & Ball's Elephant's Breath on furniture in the bedroom and dressing room, and took it one

degree lighter in the bathroom by painting the walls in Skimming Stone. The bath exterior is in Farrow & Ball's Dove Tail. All three shades share common purple tones but the overall feel is soft and muted. We had the feature tiles in the shower created to order – I love their rustic, earthy finish with absolutely no shine at all.

Tell us about the lighting

The original plan was for a big chandelier, which would have been expensive and tricky as building regulations stipulate that lighting positioned within 2.25m above a bath must have specialist enclosure protection. Our solution – an iron tealight holder designed for hanging on a garden tree – looks great, along with antique bronze wall sconces and spotlights. The lighting is on two circuits and both are dimmable.

What makes this bathroom special?

There's a great sense of flow between the bedroom, dressing room and bathroom, which are all connected by pocket doors that can be left open plan if desired. We also kept a lot of the room's architectural character, which helps it feel like a bathroom that's always belonged in the house rather than a new addition.

The details

SURFACES Wall paint, Skimming Stone estate emulsion, £38 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. **Floor tiles**, Plain cement, £75sq m; Rosiers patterned cement, £96sq m, both Emery & Cie at Retrouvius. For similar engineered-wood floors try Dinesen, from £106.80sq m

SANITARYWARE The Humber bath with overflow hole (painted), £4,980; The Eden low-level WC suite, £1,776, all Drummonds

SINKS AND TAPS Classic bath mixer tap, £1,500; Classic basin taps, £1,170; Carron shower controls, £3,114, all Drummonds

FINISHING TOUCHES Double Lowther vanity unit, £6,540; Towel rail, from £2,500, both Drummonds. Marco mitred wall mirrors, £225 each, Oka. Effies Jupiter hanging tealight chandelier, £54.99, Black Country Metalworks



Best dressed

Darker shades were chosen for the dressing room for a coordinated look that avoids being samey

PHOTOGRAPHY MATT CLAYTON



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PLANNING YOUR SPACE

A little imagination can transform your bathroom into a practical and luxurious haven

Planning a bathroom can take more thought than any other room, with the exception of the kitchen. But whereas with a kitchen redesign, you may have the reassuring presence of a designer, in the bathroom you'll often have to manage a plasterer, plumber and flooring installer on your own. A typical British bathroom is small, requiring clever use of space to fit in all the desired features and make it good-looking and comfortable. And installation can be deceptively tricky, involving plumbing, spatial design and technical skill, so it pays to have an interior designer, a specialist bathroom designer or, at the very least, an experienced builder/plumber with an eye for design.

An over-bath shower is a space saver and allows comfortable bathing and generous showering. Cleargreen's Viride Offset acrylic bath, from £399 at the Pure Bathroom Collection, has an angular interior that maximises standing space.



A generous walk-in shower can prove a more practical option in an en suite or guest bathroom. Rise DCV shower from Aqualisa, from £499.



Cleverly placed LEDs create striking design features as well as provide relaxing ambient lighting. Bathrooms by bB Design House starts from £20,000.

DEFINE YOUR SPACE

Analyse how you use your current room, note what works and what doesn't, then draw up a list that takes into account all users, their individual needs and how these might change in the future. A family bathroom will usually require a bath, hardwearing and splashproof surfaces, while an en suite can be more luxe.

FAMILY BATHROOMS

This is usually the largest bathroom and fittings and finishes should be selected with low maintenance and durability in mind. 'Always use porcelain tiles in a family bathroom, including slip-resistant porcelain on the floors, as they are hard-wearing and will still look good in years to come,' says Ripples' senior designer Katie Gisby. 'They also require zero maintenance.' Plenty of storage is a must – double up on vanity units, basins and mirrors where space allows and don't be tempted to evict the bath if it is the only one in the house. Instead consider a space-saving shower-bath.

MASTER EN SUITES

Here, you can afford to throw caution to the wind and go for opulent materials and a more

complex lighting scheme to create a relaxing mood. If there's space, opt for twin vanity areas with attached dressing rooms. This is the place to splash out on equipment such as a steam shower or elaborate sound system, and to indulge in sumptuous surfaces. If space is tricky, consider a bathtub in the bedroom with an area sectioned off for the loo and basin.

SHOWER ROOMS AND GUEST EN SUITES

These can often be squeezed into a surprisingly small footprint using space-saving fittings and a cloakroom basin. Keep it simple and safe with thermostatic valve showers and easy-to-clean fittings.

CREATING A NEW BATHROOM

Adding extra bathrooms is a way to boost your property's value and can also do wonders for the morning rush. Options include turning an adjacent box room into an en suite, stealing an unused area of an upstairs landing or using stud walls to section off a large bedroom. If there are no options upstairs, consider expanding a downstairs cloakroom or utility into a shower room. The advent of electric

showers and pumped drainage systems such as macerators means there are few spaces that can't accommodate bathroom fittings. Macerators are noisier than gravity-based drainage, but many people can accept the compromise, particularly if the extra bathroom is only intended for occasional guest use. Plumbing a new room is easier and cheaper if it is located next door to an existing bathroom or above the kitchen, and not too far from the external soil stack, so that pipework doesn't have far to travel.

SUCCESSFUL LAYOUTS

The view upon entry is an important part of design, and so makes a good starting point. Choose one key piece, be it a freestanding bath, striking vanity unit or a beautifully tiled shower area. If the room's proportions lend themselves to symmetry, it is worth plotting a symmetrical layout, perhaps aligned with an architectural gem such as an original sash window. Ensure there is adequate space around each fitting for comfortable use and, in a tight space, choose inward-opening doors or an over-bath shower. 'Seek specialist help to see beyond the existing layout. It's surprising how even the smallest of



Mirrored glass improves a room's dimensions and light levels. This bathroom by DesignSpace London features Modulnova's Twenty vanity unit in Grigio Cendre gloss lacquer. Bathrooms start from £10,000.



Shutting the WC out of sight is an increasingly popular move. This neat solution, with brassware by Perrin & Rowe, features a frosted glass enclosure that matches the shower space.

bathrooms can be imaginatively planned,' adds Darren Paxford of Vitra.

In a larger room, experiment with angles – an offset bath can look dynamic – or bring the bath forward and create a walk-through shower behind. If you are renovating an existing suite, moving plumbed fittings without the expense of replacing the flooring is problematic. One solution is to install a new raised floor with enough depth for pipes, but this will result in a step in the room. The toilet is generally located close to the external soil stack, with minimal bends in the pipe to avoid blockages, so relocation can require effort, but is not impossible. The job is easier if the new location follows the floor joists. It is possible to move a toilet further along the external wall that hosts the soil stack, drilling a hole through the wall and connecting into the soil stack externally.

WHERE TO BUY

Buying bathroom products can be daunting, especially as you may need to take into consideration the type of hot-water system in your home. Some showers and taps are only suited for high-pressure systems, while a luxurious raincloud shower requires serious volumes of water to work adequately. You can pick up bargains online, but aim for reputable companies with solid warranties.

Superstores such as Homebase, Ikea or B&Q offer great basics, or head to a more boutique specialist such as CP Hart or Ripples

for slightly unusual products, often straight from continental design shows. Independent bathroom specialists rely on reputation and work hard to keep up with the latest trends and plumbing regulations, so don't overlook the local family firm. Most offer CAD planning and can recommend reliable local tradesmen.

THE PERFECT FINISH

Lighting can have a massive impact and should be planned early to ensure all key fittings are illuminated properly. Aim for sufficient task lighting in the shower and vanity areas, plus ambient lighting around the bath and in alcoves and niches. The latest smart lighting controls allow pre-programmed settings. Look out for wireless lighting controls, such as Crestron's new Pyng system, which is installed without cables and can oversee thermostats, security and audio, if desired.

Shiny new fittings can highlight imperfections in the original space so it's worth updating architectural elements like doors, plinths and cornicing. A simple skim of plaster can tidy up a scrappy ceiling. Well-dressed windows will also help create a really smart finish. Plantation shutters designed for bathroom use will provide privacy and are easy to clean. Don't forget to keep some budget back for beautiful accessories that will bring the whole look together. Take your lead from boutique hotels and make sure there are plenty of lovely toiletries and squishy thick towels.



Large spaces can be just as problematic to plan as small areas, and it pays to think big and bold when positioning fittings. This centrally located double-ended Silhouette bath by Bette, £4,602 at CP Hart, works well with the room's proportions.

NEED TO KNOW

■ All new bathrooms must be ventilated in accordance with building regulations (contact your local planning office), but decent heating will also keep condensation at bay. You'll never regret investing in underfloor heating, particularly on tiled floors.

■ The average UK bathroom measures just 2sq m, so you may need to seek out specialist space-saving fittings, such as corner basins or compact toilets. Consult an interior designer, bathroom designer or architect for structural solutions such as relocating doorways or stealing space from another room.

■ Since electricity and water don't mix, it's important to ensure any electrical fittings have the correct IP rating (ingress protection) according to their proximity to water. There are many guides to IP rating bathroom zones available on the internet – skinflintdesign.co.uk has an easy-to-follow blog.

■ Storage is central to creating a relaxed atmosphere. A generous vanity unit can host deep drawers for towels, mirrored cabinets can conceal toothbrushes and make-up, and include shelves or niches in the shower. Also look for slimline cabinets that slot neatly between sanitaryware.

■ If possible, the toilet should be hidden from initial sight, behind the door, or past the bath. Concealing it behind a frosted-glass screen or half-height wall is popular in shared bathrooms.

■ Luxury features worth the investment include soft-close toilet seats, low-level atmospheric LED lighting and mirror cabinets with built-in sockets for electric razors and toothbrushes.

■ It generally takes one to two weeks to install and decorate a new bathroom. While it's usually possible to keep the toilet in action, if it's your only bathroom, you may need to use the gym or a neighbour's house for showering.

AWASH WITH GLAMOUR

Unusual finishes and standout design create a haven with luxe appeal



1 Delicately carved from wood, then gilded in silver, A Thousand Leaves wall mirror, Dia53cm, £139, Plümo. 2 Christiane Lemieux's fretwork and glass accessories are inspired by Moorish designs, from £14, House of Fraser. 3 Matteo Thun's Water Jewels basin in a super-shiny copper finish is a real show stopper, H14 x W38.5 x D38.5cm, £581, Vitra. 4 Antonio Citterio wows with his latest brassware collection, characterised

by smooth shapes, clean lines and precious surfaces. Axor Citterio E single-lever basin mixer 150, £375, Hansgrohe. 5 With its glossy diamond-cut top, walnut surround and slender bands of polished copper, the George bath is a thing of beauty. W180 x D110 x H51.5cm, from £10,680, Falper. 6 Put pipework on show with this classically detailed exposed-valve Rhyland dual-control mini-valve shower with fixed kit, £420, Heritage Bathrooms.

7 Fired Earth's High Society Marble mosaics feature on-trend geometric shapes in timeless materials, £27.54 for a 26.1 x 30.2cm sheet. 8 Everyone's talking about the new Cyprum finish, made from 18-carat fine gold and copper, MEM single-lever bath mixer, £8,226, Dornbracht. 9 Topped in crisp Quarrycast composite stone with an integral basin, the Mandello 114 vanity unit comes in Anthracite or Piano Black, from £4,560, Victoria & Albert.

STOCKISTS

Your essential contacts for beautiful bathroom fittings and finishes

ALCHEMY DESIGN
AWARD 01279 771159
alchemyaward.com
ALTERNATIVE BATHROOM
COMPANY 020 3375 9002
alternativebathrooms.com
AQUALISA 0800 652 3669
aqualisa.co.uk

BALINEUM
020 7431 9364
balineum.co.uk
BATHROOMS.COM
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BC DESIGNS 01206 827100
bcdesigns.co.uk
BERT & MAY 020 3673 4264
bertandmay.com
BETTE bette.de
BLACK COUNTRY
METALWORKS 0800 688 8386
blackcountrymetalworks.co.uk
BRITISH CERAMIC TILE
01626 834774
britishceramictile.com

CCATCHPOLE & RYE
020 7351 0940
catchpoleandrye.com
CHADDER & CO
01342 823243 chadder.com
CP HART 0845 600 1950
cphart.co.uk

CRESTRON
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crestron.com
CROSSWATER
0845 873 8840
crosswater.co.uk
CROWN PAINT 01254 704951
crownpaint.co.uk
CUE & CO OF LONDON
020 7731 4728 cueandco.com

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020 7228 8088
designspacelondon.com
DEVON & DEVON
020 7221 5137
devon-devon.com
DINESEN 020 3630 0196
dinesen.com
DORNBRACHT
02476 717129
dornbracht.com
DRUMMONDS
01483 237202
drummonds-uk.com

FFALPER
07770 761656 falper.it
FARROW & BALL 01202 876141
farrow-ball.com
FIRED EARTH 0845 366 0400
firedearth.com

HHANSGROHE
01372 465655
hansgrohe.co.uk
HERITAGE BATHROOMS
0844 701 8501
heritagebathrooms.com

HOUSE OF FRASER
0345 602 1073
houseoffraser.co.uk

IDEAL STANDARD
01482 346461
ideal-standard.co.uk
IMPERIAL BATHROOMS
01922 743074
imperialbathrooms.com
IN-HOUSE 01661 842304
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kaldewei.co.uk

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laufen.co.uk
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laurencepidgeon.com

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merlynshowering.com
MODULNOVA
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MUTINA mutina.it

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PURE BATHROOM COLLECTION
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retrovius.com
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rfrproperty.com
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ROPER RHODES 01225 303900
roperrhodes.co.uk
RORY DOBNER 020 7431 8896
rorydobner.com
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samuel-heath.com
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SURFACE 020 7819 2300
surfacetiles.com

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albionbathco.com
THE BAKED TILE COMPANY
0292 035 8409
bakedtiles.co.uk
THE WATER MONOPOLY
020 7624 2636
watermonopoly.com
TUISS
0800 862 0466
tuiss.co.uk

VVIA ARKADIA
020 7351 7057
via-arkadia.co.uk
VICTORIA + ALBERT
020 7351 4378
vandabaths.com
VILLEROY & BOCH
020 8871 4028
villeroy-boch.co.uk
VITRA 01235 750990
vitra.co.uk

WATERWORKS
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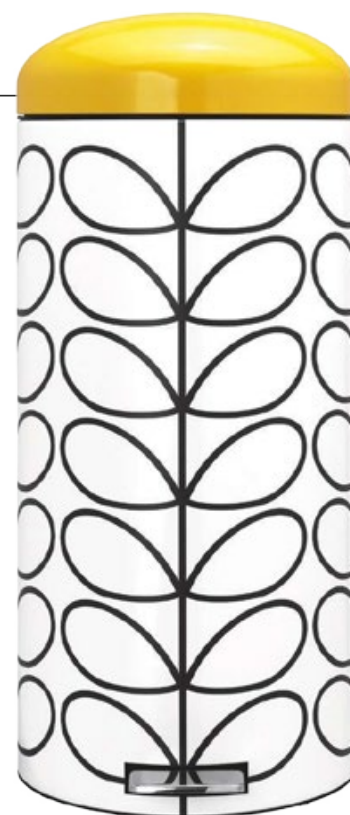


WELL FEATHERED

If you're busy browsing furniture and accessories for your scheme, make sure you check out the new look Nest.co.uk website. It's now easier to navigate your way through its well-considered collections for the modern home. The site also includes handy buyers' guides, an inspiration section, plus a chat facility for extra details on products if needed.

EASY COOK

Lakeland's ingenious microwave pressure cooker is perfect for when you're mid-project and the kitchen is out of action. Not only can it cook a Thai green curry from scratch in just 15 minutes, it also steams, cooks soups and rice dishes and even puddings. With 23 recipes to get you started, it costs £34.99, 015394 88100, lakeland.co.uk



DESIGNER DUSTBIN

Brabantia has put a decorative spin on its classic pedal bins by teaming up with the doyenne of retro prints, Orla Kiely. Available in three sizes (10, 20 and 30 litres) and two colour choices, prices start at £95, 0127 581 9119, brabantia.com



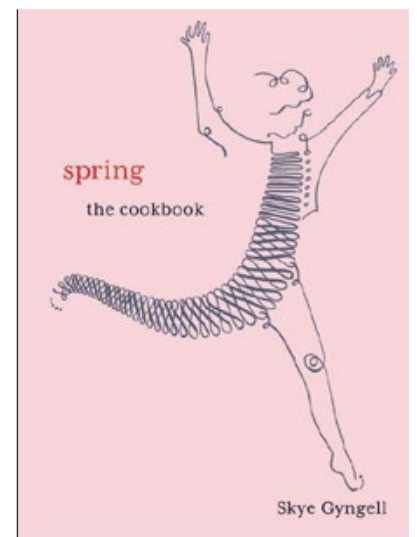
SURFACE MATTERS

Any busy table will benefit from an oilcloth to protect it, but you don't have to sacrifice the look. These striking designs are available in great colourways at BoConcept, and cost £19m, W140cm. Find stockists at boconcept.com/en-gb



Night vision

Folding glass doors may give fabulous views of the garden by day, but by night they can turn into ominous dark panels unless you get creative with outdoor lighting. John Cullen has a new generation of LED lights that use less power, enabling you to go to town on a display without wasting energy. Try its excellent design service or get ideas for your scheme at one of the regular workshops, 020 7371 9000, johncullenlighting.co.uk



A TASTE OF SPRING

Skye Gyngell's cooking expertly brings the best out of seasonal produce, so we're excited to see this book from her new restaurant, Spring, which is filled with mouth-watering recipes and insights into menu development. To buy *Spring* (£25, Quadrille) for the special price of £20 (including p&p), call 01256 302699 and quote DT7.

WEEKEND BOLTHOLE

Escape in style to the newly refurbished five-star Ashford Castle in County Mayo. The former home of the Guinness family is set in 350 acres on the shores of Lough Corrib where outdoor activities include an exclusive 9-hole golf course, fly fishing and falconry school. Indoors, there are 82 beautifully decorated bedrooms, yet this is luxury with warmth and welcome.

Guests can enjoy the three restaurants, spa, a 32-seat cinema and billiard room, while young visitors can take advantage of the free Lego butler service. From €395 per night. 00 353 94 9546003, ashfordcastle.com



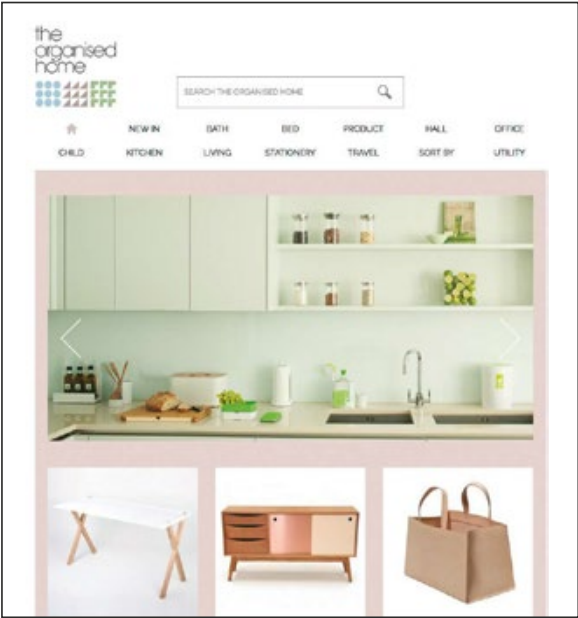


GREAT OUTDOORS

To celebrate 50 years of running its country estate, Wakehurst Place in Ardingly, West Sussex, the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew is hosting a series of summer events including tours, talks, birds of prey displays and meadow walks. Open every day, find full details at kew.org/wakehurst. Standard entry is £12.50.



PURE WORKWEAR *Whether at the stove or barbecue, Falcon's new apron and mitts will have you cooking in style. Made from quality linen and cotton, in three colourways that mirror the company's iconic enamelware, priced £37 for an apron; £25 for a pair of oven gloves, falconenamelware.com*



ORDER ORDER

Keeping the house organised can be easier said than done, but Romaine Lowery's excellent website, theorganisedhome.co.uk, certainly gives us hope. There are storage solutions for all rooms, plus useful decluttering tips.



SIMPLY DELICIOUS

Italian food is like summer on a plate, and chef Theo Randall of InterContinental Park Lane knows how to keep things simple for the tastiest results. Buy his new book *My Simple Italian* (£25, Ebury Press) for just £20 (including UK p&p) by calling 01206 255800 and quoting *Beautiful Kitchens*.

Classic white china with a twist

FINE LINE

A wedding gown may have been the inspiration behind Vera Wang's Organza china for Wedgwood, but there's nothing frou-frou about it. Save for special if you must, but it's robust enough to bring a sense of occasion to everyday dining. £18 for a Dia27cm dinner plate; £60 for a 5-piece place setting, wedgwood.com



C'EST CHIC

Wake up to the Parisienne range of breakfast bowls, £4.95 each, and dinner plates, £6.96 each, from the lovely people at Howkapow. It has a gentle frill and the most subtle of border colours. 0117 942 4000, howkapow.com



SCANDI SETTING

For a more modern, edgy Scandinavian feel, take a look at the effortlessly cool Swedish Tableware range for Nordic House, with signature high-rim silhouette. Practical for daily use, it can go in both the microwave and dishwasher. Prices start from £4.25 for a mug, and £12 for a Dia27cm dinner plate. 01872 223220, nordichouse.co.uk.





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WHERE TO SHOP FOR...

Stone flooring is a timeless and durable choice, bringing natural beauty to schemes of all styles



Roche Marron limestone in a satino finish, from £95sq m, Artisans of Devizes



ARTISANS OF DEVIZES

01380 720007, artisansofdevizes.com

This family-run company started in 1981 selling English limestone flooring from a workshop in Wiltshire. Since then it's grown considerably, and now also stocks slate, terracotta, marble and travertine and, if you can't find what you're after, the team will track it down. Priced from £46.50sq m for tumbled Rodos limestone.

BESWICK STONE

01285 885795, beswickstone.co.uk

Situated in the heart of the Cotswolds, this specialist importer of natural stone tiles and flagstones specialises in limestone with a Cotswold stone look, hand-finished flagstones and travertine. If you're unable to visit in person, you can order free samples and receive advice online. From £34.80sq m.

BRITANNICUS STONE

020 7751 5962, britannicus-stone.co.uk

Britannicus specialises in an abundance of homegrown stones, converting 350

million-year-old sedimentary rocks into elegant marbles in a surprising choice of patterns. Stock is sourced from small quarries throughout the country, then made into bespoke countertops, floors and wall panels. From £264sq m.

CAPIETRA

0844 915 0002, capietra.com

Ca'Pietra believes that almost every kitchen project should include some natural stone. Dealing in limestone, slate, travertine and sandstone, it has a technical helpline that can advise on varieties, suitability, patterns, finishes and installation. Stones are sold through a network of kitchen and stone retailers. From £34.80sq m for Pewter Slate in a riven finish.

DE FERRANTI

020 7384 4424, deferranti.com

Whether it's from the exquisitely beautiful to the wonderfully unusual, this luxury surface specialist will be able to source it. Specialising in rare stone, limestone, marble, terracotta and mosaics, its products are sourced from far-flung corners of the globe. Pieces are finished using both artisanal craft methods and modern technology. From £165sq m for limestone.

FIRE EARTH

0845 366 0400, firedearth.com

Starting from modest beginnings selling terracotta floor tiles on an Oxfordshire farm, Fired Earth now has 62 showrooms. Its stone flooring covers marble, flagstones and limestone (including Belgian Blue with its speckling of fossils), as well as travertine and slate. Bosphorous travertine, from £28.99sq m.

FLOORS OF STONE

01509 234000, floorsofstone.com

When the showroom is in a 16th-century water mill surrounded by fields, ponds and peacocks, you know to expect something special. Floors of Stone's range spans limestone, travertine, quarry tiles, marble, quartzite and sandstone, with prices from £14sq m for travertine and up to £120sq m for English quarried limestone. Plus, its sister company Devol is housed in the same building, so you can see the floors in situ.

INDIGENOUS

01993 824200, indigenous.co.uk

For a stone flooring range that's more curated than a standard collection, head to Indigenous. All products are handpicked by founder Joss Thomas, and include proven favourites with unusual finds and a selection of limestone, marble, mosaics, slate, terracotta and travertine. There's also a bespoke sourcing service and an ethical policy – all broken tiles and unwanted samples, for example, go to local artists and school art departments. From £31sq m for honed or tumbled Ivory or Noce travertine.

LAPICIDA

020 3012 1000, lapicida.com

With a workshop in Harrogate housing Europe's largest stone-shaping mill, plus a 10,000sq ft London showroom, Lapidida's services are second to none. As well as producing custom-made floors using advanced etching, laser and water-jet cutting, it also sources only the best grades of stone, including limestone, sandstone, marble, slate, granite and onyx, priced from £59.95sq m.

FEATURE RACHEL OGDEN



Shelter Island polished marble mosaic tiles in a Harbour View design (31.2 x 27.5 x 1cm), £129.87sq m, Fired Earth



Italian Silver Vein Cut
travertine, £138sq m,
Natural Stone Projects



Aged Muscat
limestone, £57.60sq m,
Martin Moore Stone



Oceanus Flamed Brushed
granite, from £54sq m,
Mandarin Stone

LASSCO

01844 277188; 020 7394 8061, lassco.co.uk

Specialising in flooring with a story, Lassco has an ever-changing range of stone, whether it's salvaged or responsibly sourced. Examples include Staffordshire blue pavlovs retrieved from a stable block, reclaimed Yorkstone paving and restored French terracotta tiles, from £1.65 each for handmade tiles. It also offers advice on supply, installation and finish.

LIMESTONE GALLERY

020 7828 6900, limestonegallery.com

It's no surprise that limestone is the focus here, but what's far more notable is that Limestone Gallery can find any stone worldwide and manufacture stonework in any pattern. While bespoke limestone and marble dominate, you'll find all types of natural stone. Plus, there are specialist fitting, cleaning and sealing services. From £80sq m for Limeira limestone tiles.

MANDARIN STONE

01600 715444, mandarinstone.com

One of the largest importers and stockists of natural stone tiles in the UK, Mandarin Stone is a great place to go for flooring in a flash, as virtually all of its stone products, such as limestone, marble, slate, travertine and granite, are always held in stock. The 10 showrooms are staffed by knowledgeable consultants. Expect to pay from £15sq m for its Classic slate range.

MARTIN MOORE STONE

01372 478955, martinmoorestone.com

Better known for creating bespoke kitchens, Martin Moore also has a stone studio in each

of its seven showrooms. Flooring includes English stone, aged flagstones, limestone and marble, reclaimed terracotta, slate, mosaic, antique reclaimed stone and travertine. A full design, installation and maintenance service is on offer. From £24sq m for honed black slate.

NATURAL STONE PROJECTS

020 8943 3221, stone-projects.com

Headed up by Carlos and Caroline Zanarotti, who have more than 20 years of experience, Natural Stone Projects is a specialist studio with direct links to a network of quarries. As well as limestone, marble, travertine and basalt in standard sizes or patterns such as herringbone or large slabs, it offers a portfolio of stones in bespoke sizes and finishes. Olinda limestone in a standard size, costs from £66sq m.

STONE AGE

020 7384 9090, stone-age.co.uk

Stone Age provides a full service, including sourcing, importing and fitting pretreated stone, plus it will even take you to a quarry to select the right stone. Its London base is the largest natural stone showroom in southeast England, displaying laid floors, room sets and samples of its limestone, sandstone, granite, basalt, slate and marble, from £38sq m. There's a British stone section, too.

THE STONE & CERAMIC WAREHOUSE

020 8993 5545, sacw.co.uk

Large projects call for expertise, which is where The Stone & Ceramic Warehouse comes in. Its in-house team of designers and architects are on hand to give advice and provide detailed

drawings for complex projects. Offering marble, travertine, slate and limestone, it also stocks tiling products, has a free sample service and can advise online or over the phone. From £45.60sq m for travertine or slate tiles.

THE STONE & TILE COMPANY

01530 446446,

stonetilecompany.co.uk

Buying from this online company couldn't be easier. There are plenty of inspirational images showing how to design floors using its products – which include slate, quartzite, granite, limestone and travertine – plus installation guides, next-day delivery, a free sample service, and a technical helpline with expert stone consultants. From £12.50sq m for Charcoal Black slate.

TOPPS TILES

0800 783 6262, toppstiles.co.uk

It might be known for its ceramics, but Topps Tiles also has an extensive range of natural stone flooring, with more than 300 designs available at its 330 stores nationwide. The range includes travertine, marble, slate, granite, limestone and terracotta. Inspiration stations and in-store experts are on hand to help, and useful tools on the website include the tile visualiser, a quantities calculator and handy videos. Stone flooring starts from £30sq m.



Light Tumbled
travertine,
from £24sq m,
Floors of Stone

KITCHEN SOURCE BOOK

Useful contact details for the main kitchen companies, appliance manufacturers and fixtures and finishes for your scheme. Find this issue's extra stockists on page 153

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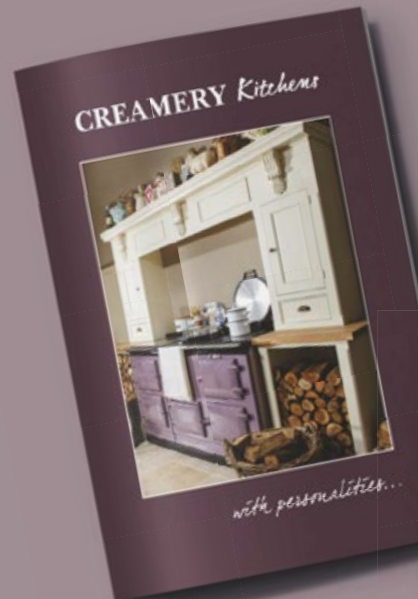
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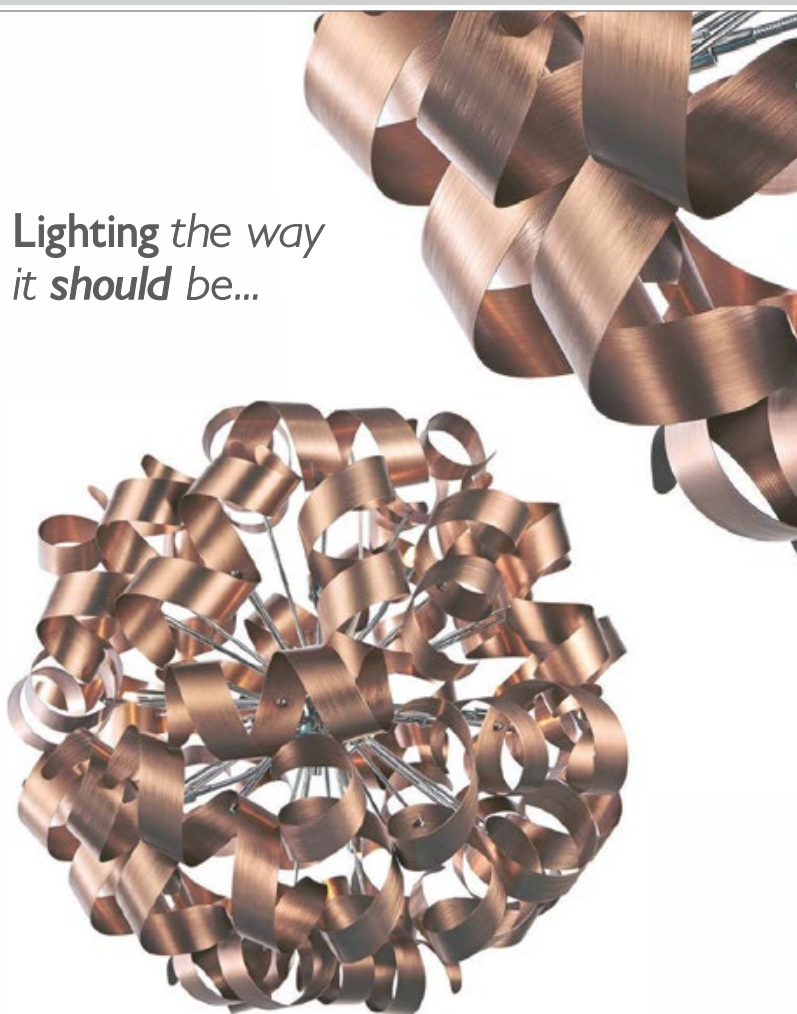
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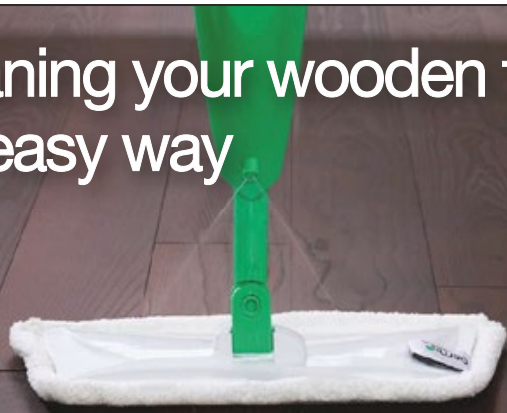
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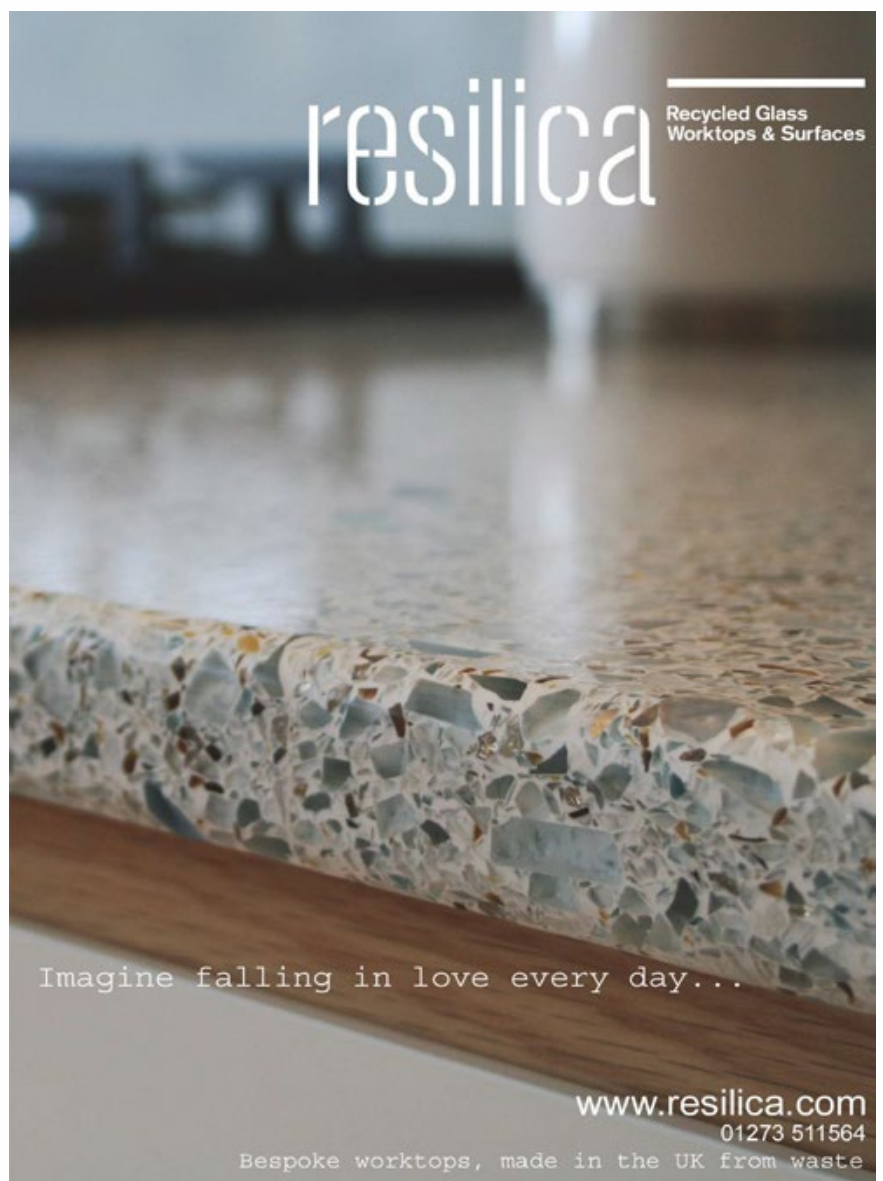
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