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Welcome

to the September issue

With phrases such as 'modern rustic', 'back to basics' and 'old meets new' so much in the ether right now, the question of what 'contemporary' means in terms of kitchens is something we are all contemplating. The new emphasis on the stripped back, the hand-crafted and the traditional has given us pause for thought about how we can incorporate the beauty of natural materials and restrained design into our own kitchen projects, and is a creative process reflected in each one of featured kitchens in this issue. From an Essex farmhouse, where a 1980s kitchen was replaced with Georgian-inspired cabinetry and a butler sink in the scullery (**Grand Statement**, page 26) to a London townhouse incorporating the Shaker-style, with tongue and groove joinery, Lee Broom lighting and traditional tiles made in Stoke-on-Trent (**Room to Breathe**, page 40), even some of the most ambitious projects are returning to sustainability and tradition, all done with a contemporary edge. Earthy textures and raw materials were also the starting points for our two shoots in this issue. In **Attention to Detail** (p86), handmade ceramics and pared-back wooden accessories are juxtaposed with the sleek new range of glossy kitchens at Alno, while in our bathrooms shoot stylist Anna Morley shopped for a natural palette in **Combine and Contrast** (p112). The synthesis between rough and smooth and beauty and utility is carried through in **Island Appeal** (p66), where we look at how kitchen islands create the ultimate nucleus for the rough and tumble of busy family life. Perhaps it's in the design of a practical kitchen island which best sums up the contemporary interior we all hanker for - simple flexibility and good looks, alongside purity and function.

Enjoy the issue.

Ciara

Ciara Elliott
ACTING EDITOR

Contributors this issue



Marisa Daly

Marisa styled our kitchen still life shoot on page 86. She says 'I love styling for **EKBB** and hunting around for new and beautiful accessories from unusual sources.' She enjoys visiting exhibitions to find inspiration for shoots.



Harriet Paige

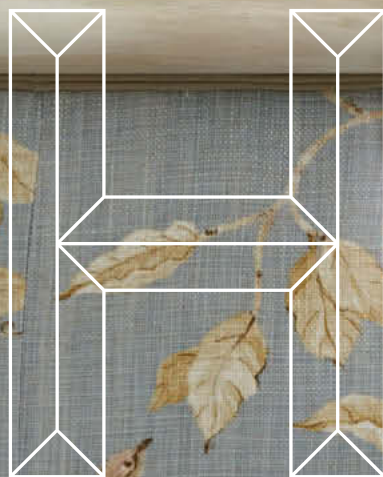
Harriet has been an interiors journalist for over 10 years. Her passion for writing led to her taking a career break to complete an MA in Creative Writing. She lives in East London with her husband and two young children, Anton and Tabitha.



Anna Morley

Independent interior stylist Anna has a keen eye for detail. She enjoys using the latest high-end product designs as well as natural ceramics and materials to enhance spaces. See how she styled our bathroom still life feature on page 112.





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A painted kitchen with solid timber cabinets by Humphrey Munson Kitchens. See page 26.
PICTURE **DARREN CHUNG**
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Kitchens

STARK CONTRAST

A multi-functional island transforms a simple kitchen design with Nordic influence

The Mila kitchen features Gloss White polyurethane base and tall unit doors; Textured cement light knotted larch melamine finishes; Nadir cement melamine back panel; Fold open units and a built-in Virgola hood. One gloss white base unit is from around £400, Cesar Kitchens



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Kitchen News

The latest launches and inspiration-packed events

WRITTEN BY EMMA FOALE

COLOUR CREATION

The influence of colour on our mood and emotions is one that the experts at Little Greene have thoroughly considered for their latest paint range. Following on from the success of their Grey collection last year, the new shades have been made using natural earth pigments which are environmentally sensitive to both modern and restored buildings. littlegreene.com.



Wall and cabinets painted in Hicks' Blue 208; Stool in Green Verditer 92. Prices start from £35 for 2.5 litres of absolute matt emulsion, available from Little Greene



Coffee kick

If the smell of freshly brewed coffee gets you up in the morning, you might want one of these colourful stove-top pots. New to the Classic Espresso Collection by La Cafetière the three limited edition colours, Retro Blue, Warm Grey and Pistachio, add a soft finish to the durable aluminium with an easy-to-use ergonomic handle. From £19.95 each. lacafetiere.com.

Take A SEAT

Carl Hansen & Son is relaunching Danish craft classic, the Metropolitan chair. An icon of design, it is now available with solid oak or walnut legs and a saddle leather seat and backrest in natural, cognac or black. It's in shops from September. carlhansen.com.



Metropolitan chairs in natural oak and walnut cognac, from £2,366 each, Carl Hansen & Son



DINNER SERVICE

Inky blue hand-painted detailing gives each piece of the Blue Fluted Mega tableware a unique style. Young artist Karen Kjældgaard-Larsen has modernised its original neo-classical style while still honouring the original 1775 design. The range includes plates, bowls, a cup and saucer, dish on a stand and a teapot. Prices start from £39 for a small plate. royalcopenhagen.com.

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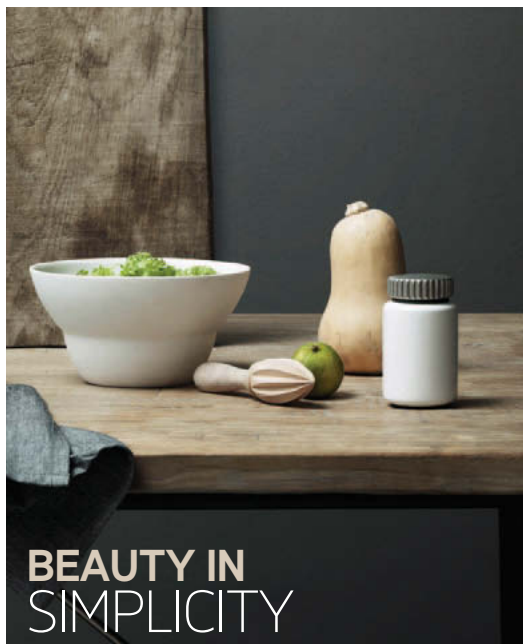
Let's TESSELATE

In collaboration with The Conran Shop, reclaimed tile experts Bert & May have launched the Azure Blues collection featuring eye-catching geometric patterns alongside four newly developed blue shades. The Churriana, Lapis and Majadas tiles draw inspiration from dreamy summer terraces in Southern France and the blue sea of the beautiful Cote d'Azur. They're £9 each. bertandmay.com.



FROM ALL ANGLES

The latest addition to the box pendant range from Davey Lighting is Hex. Embracing a new hexagonal shape, its design has been influenced by the lines and angles of architectural city landmarks such as The Shard and The Eiffel Tower. Hung over a dining table as a single piece or in a row of three, they're sure to impress. £415 each. davey-lighting.co.uk.



BEAUTY IN SIMPLICITY

It's a fact that tableware doesn't always need to be elaborate to make an impression. This shapely bowl from Vipp is part of a seven-piece tableware range with an industrial and minimalist style. Made in collaboration with Danish ceramicist Annemette Kissow, the ceramicware is hand-cast porcelain, glazed on the inside and water-polished by hand on the outside. The bowl is £35. vipp.com/en.

CLASSIC STONE

A luxurious and durable choice for worktops, Calacatta Nuvo marble has a strongly defined veining running right through it, creating a beautiful texture. Its smooth finish shows off the best of its natural quality and makes this material a superior work surface. Prices start from £800 per square metre. caesarstone.com.



Photo Tom Mannion



A REAL STUD

Expanding on her Brogue furniture, Bethan Gray has released her Stud range which is wrapped in Spinneybeck leather and inspired by work found on Asian and Arabic doors. Designed for the Yoo Home collection, all pieces are exclusively available from Harrods. The table is £3,240. harrods.com.

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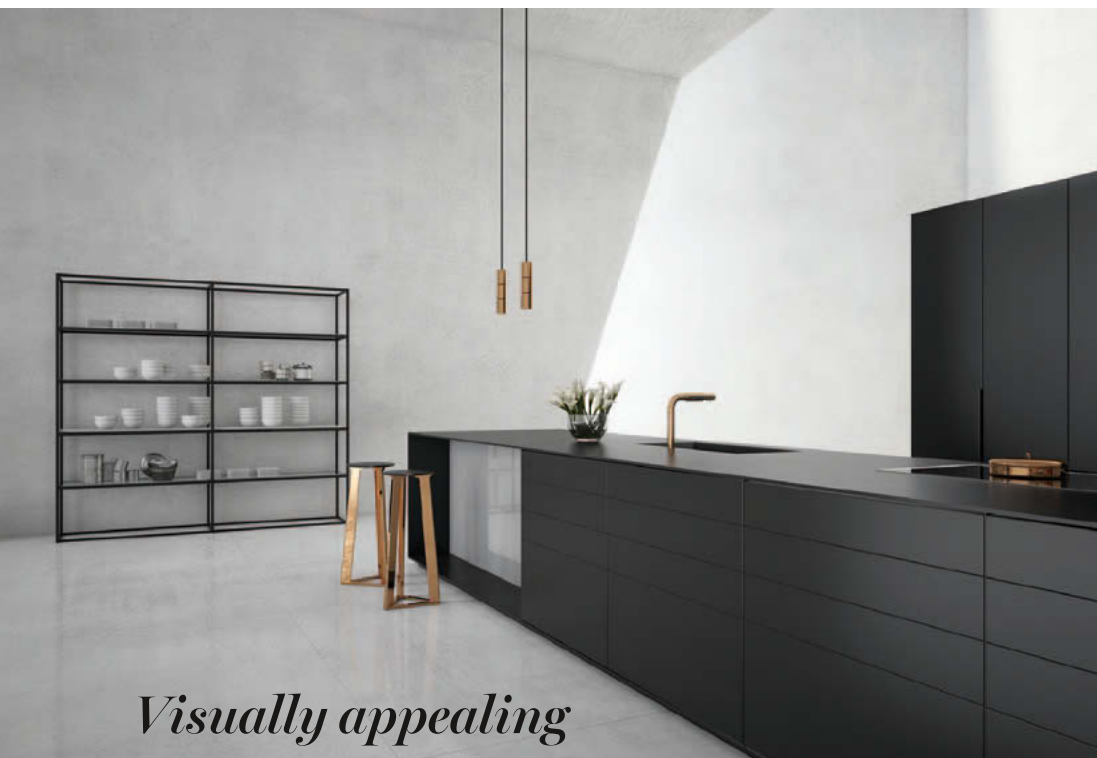
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A GLASS ACT

Stunning to look at, let one of these limited edition Lumiere Pure crystal vases and bowls from Villeroy & Boch take pride of place in your kitchen. There are nine hand-blown pieces made from the finest crystal and embellished crystal cuts, each bearing the signature of the glassmaker and glasscutter. Available exclusively at Harrods, the collection is priced from £290. villeroy-boch.co.uk.



Visually appealing

All set to have its official launch at this year's 100% Design show in September, Vinculum by innovative kitchen and furniture designers Piqu, is set to make a big impression. It's part of the 12mm range which gives you the opportunity to create a completely bespoke design, marrying a variety of materials such as glass, stone, metals, veneers and lacquered finishes. Not only does it have a seamless feel but it also has a consistent visual aesthetic. Piqu kitchen prices start from £70,000. piqu.co.uk.

Table ENVY

So you've chosen your dining set, now it's time to decide on a coffee table. If you take a look at designs by luxury furniture designer Christopher Guy you'll be spoilt for choice. We're currently admiring the good looks of the Bizet table. It has an impressive hand-wrought metal base which is topped with circular tempered glass. £5,749. christopherguy.com.



Stony looks

As part of the new kitchen ranges available from Valcucine in September, Cardoso stone is the latest option for a cantilevered worktop. Quarried in Italy, this stone is hard-wearing and is made using a special cutting technique which has its roots in Italian handicraft. It's a textural surface which is versatile enough to incorporate an integrated sink and make an impact against grains of dark wood. The island (shown) is £37,500. valcucine.com.

DIARY DATES

Decorex International

This year Syon Park will host this ever-popular exhibition which is an integral part of London Design Festival during September. There are over 100 new exhibitors including Liberty Art Fabrics Interiors. This year's entrance will host eight exclusive installations from renowned designers and exhibitors, all in celebration of the Georgian era. decorex.com.

WHEN? 21st – 24th September

WHERE? Syon Park, Middlesex, TW8



Chelsea Antiques Fair

After two successful spring dates, this fair is returning to its additional September date with a new look and more variety. Taking place in the elegant, late-Victorian Chelsea Old Town Hall, you'll find there's lots to see and appreciate along with guided tours which give you the opportunity to talk with dealers and learn insider tips about collecting art and antiques. penman-fairs.co.uk.

WHEN? 18th – 21st September

WHERE? Chelsea Old Town Hall, King's Road, London, SW3

Lapada Arts & Antiques Fair

Returning to Mayfair, this prestigious event is a must-visit if you want to source and buy fine art and antiques from over 100 dealers and experts. In its sixth year, you can expect to find furniture, carpets, tapestries, antiques, silver, fine art and ceramics. Prices of art works range from £500 up to £500,000 and beyond, offering something for everyone. lapadalondon.com.

WHEN? 24th – 28th September

WHERE? Berkeley Square, London, W1



20/21 British Art Fair

For any British art collector, this fair offers a focus on Modern and Post-War but also features contemporary art too. Expect works from leading 20th Century artists such as Henry Moore and Elisabeth Frink and 21st Century artists including Banksy and Damien Hirst. The whole story of British art is represented from past to more recent graduate work. britishartfair.co.uk.

WHEN? 10th – 14th September

WHERE? Royal College of Art, Kensington Gore, London, SW7



Driven BY DESIGN

Combining the engineering minds behind Porsche Design Studio and the kitchen expertise of Poggenpohl, the P'7350 kitchen concept has an aluminium frame and strong, linear features. It's more adaptable than a classic fitted kitchen because you can arrange the elements in any formation within the frame. It comes with handleless door fronts, soft-close drawers and gloss and matt finishes in white, grey or black. From £30,000. poggenpohl.com.

AGE OF ANTIQUITY

Giving a nod to the deities of the ancient world, these hand-carved Alabaster stone vessels are reminiscent of what would've been used to hold perfumes, honey and other valuable, precious contents. Each one makes a decorative statement, with eye-catching translucency. £594 each. lapidica.com.



SIMPLICITY RULES

Danish design company & tradition draws on its Nordic heritage and takes a cue from craftsmanship and simple forms. The contemporary Raft bar stool by Norm.Architects, £349, has all of these qualities and is available in either natural oak (shown) or black stained oak. occa-home.co.uk.



INSIDE INSPIRATION

If you're passing by Harrods in London, be sure to visit the Gourmet Cookshop on the second floor to see the latest display from SieMatic with Sub-Zero & Wolf appliances. The BeauxArts.02 and S2 kitchens are great examples of how you can personalise and customise your cooking space. BeauxArts.02 kitchens start from £30,000. siematic.co.uk.

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STATEMENT

Susanna and George Peterson extended their Essex farmhouse to create a family kitchen boasting classic good looks, state-of-the-art appliances and a lot more space than their three energetic boys could ever dream of

PICTURES **DARREN CHUNG** | WORDS **HARRIET PAIGE**



WONDER WALL

Designer Peter Munson, tackled the large space by dividing it into different zones. The main kitchen centres around an island and range cooker which both overlook the dining area in the light-filled orangery. A dividing wall separates this area from the scullery and walk-in larder, with a large opening between the two spaces for a natural flow and capacious feel

A major extension and remodelling project has seen Susanna and George Peterson's 1980s farmhouse double in size to create a stunning and spacious family home for them and their three sons, Edward, 10, Tom, seven and William, four. Much of the extension is taken up with a huge kitchen and adjoining dining area, accommodated within a beautiful timber-framed orangery which is a far cry from the small, poorly-designed kitchen that came already installed in the new-build property the family moved from. 'It was cramped with very little cupboard space and literally started to fall apart after a while,' remembers Susanna. 'I was determined to get a well-made kitchen this time with quality appliances that would stand the test of time.'

Favouring a classic English look that wouldn't date, Susanna made contact with a few renowned companies that made hand-built kitchens whose work she'd admired in a variety of magazines. However, it was a company on her doorstep that ended up winning her custom. 'I noticed Humphrey Munson when driving out of Felsted and was first attracted by their sign, which was really beautiful,' she laughs. 'When I went inside I saw that their kitchens were beautiful too – exactly what I was looking for and at a fraction of the cost of those I'd seen elsewhere. Peter, the owner, was so helpful and enthusiastic and came to the site even before the building work had begun to discuss our plans.'

It was clear that, with such a large area to work with, an island would be needed to divide up the space and create a workable cooking and food preparation zone. This large island, incorporating a breakfast bar, prep sink and plenty of worktop space sits opposite a range cooker flanked by sets of deep pan drawers. These two pieces form the heart of the kitchen, supplemented by a separate refrigeration area, larder and a scullery. 'The sink on the island is just for food preparation, then I've got a butler sink and dishwasher in the scullery where I do all my washing up. It's great when we have dinner parties as I can stack up all the dirty plates and dishes round the corner out of sight,' says Susanna.

With a large extended family the couple do lots of entertaining, and creating a sociable space, both for everyday family gatherings and larger parties, was top of the Petersons' agenda. 'The island seating is a great place for the children to grab a snack when they come home from school, and also for friends to gather while I'm cooking,' says Susanna. 'One of the features I'm most proud of is the distressed mirror splashback behind the cooker – not only does it look great but it allows me to see people sitting at the island while I'm at the hob.' A long dining table, seating 14, provides ample seating for larger gatherings, and a magnificent focal point within the orangery. 'It was clear when we started designing the space that everything had to be on a large scale, otherwise it would just look ridiculous,' says Susanna. 'The space is the thing I love most about the kitchen though, it feels so luxurious. The boys love it too – they even rush around it on their scooters, although the bikes have been banned!' **EKBB**



ISLAND LIFE

A large island takes centre stage in the main part of the kitchen. A prep sink with Quooker boiling water tap supplements the main washing up sink in the scullery, while a breakfast bar area offers an informal place for guests to sit while Susanna is preparing meals. It also acts as an easy and quick snacking area for her three sons





Clockwise from top left
Susanna chose a distressed
mirror splashback for the area
behind her cooker. 'I love it and
it's so easy to clean,' she says.
A slate chalk board from The Blue
Egg in Great Bardfield, Essex, is
ready to list the week's events.
An entranceway between the
Sub-Zero fridge and wine storage
leads into the walk-in larder. The
cabinetry in the island is painted
in Attic II by Little Greene





PLAY IT COOL

At the entrance to the larder sits a large Sub-Zero fridge-freezer featuring an automatic ice maker and internal water dispenser, and two wine storage units which Susanna chose for their smart wooden interior. Refrigerated drawers beneath offer storage for beer and other beverages



NEATLY STORED

A tall, double cupboard painted in French Grey Dark by Little Greene offers plenty of space for Susanna's everyday crockery. It's mirrored on the other side of the island by a pantry cupboard

'In effect we created two kitchens - the main one centred around the island and an additional one tucked away out of sight'



PETER HUMPHREY
OWNER, HUMPHREY
MUNSON KITCHENS



What particular challenges did the design of this kitchen present you with?

The biggest challenge was creating a kitchen with a lovely flow in such a large space. In effect we created two kitchens - the main one centred around the island and an additional one tucked away. The scullery is the main washing up and rubbish disposal area but we also located a dishwasher and recycling bin into the main kitchen island, so Susanna wouldn't have to keep going back and forth. Similarly, although there is a large refrigeration and larder area we also installed a couple of fridge

drawers into the island so that essentials can be on hand.

What aspect of the kitchen do you think was most successful?

I really like the walk-in larder. We knew that the Sub-Zero fridges and wine storage had to be accommodated as they were on Susanna's wish list from the start. There was a C-shaped annexe in the room and by situating the fridges at the entrance to this, with a gap between, we could use the space behind as a walk-in larder. It was a good use of space and provides lots of useful food storage.

How did you tackle storage in the rest of the kitchen?

Personally I hate wall units and never suggest them unless lack of space demands them. Even though space certainly wasn't an issue here (in fact we had the opposite problem - there was so much space that we needed large pieces that would look in proportion) we decided on two symmetrically positioned tall cupboards on either side of the island. They give a nice variation in height to the kitchen and are substantial enough to hold their own in the space. One now houses crockery and the other functions as a pantry.

Kitchen profile

A modern 1980s farmhouse has been dramatically extended to create a large kitchen at the rear of the property, with adjoining orangery which houses a dining area. Painted cabinets in solid timber give a timeless look, while appliances by Sub-Zero & Wolf offer state-of-the-art cooking and cooling. A walk-in larder and two tall double cupboards offer plenty of storage and a separate scullery ensures everyday mess can be dealt with out of sight.

HUMPHREY MUNSON KITCHENS

The Joinery Works, Gransmore Green, Felsted, Essex, CM6 3LB.
Tel 01371 821300.
humphreymunson.co.uk
Kitchens priced from £25,000.



COOKING CENTRE

The Wolf range cooker features unique dual stacked burners which have two tiers of flame for optimum control, one to deliver high heat and the other for lower settings.

'I love it as I can melt chocolate directly on the hob without the need for a bain marie,' says Susanna.

The cooker is flanked by pan and utensil drawers and at either end sit two pairs of pull-out trays which are on hand to carry drinks to the dining table or out into the garden. A Wolf steamer cooktop is built into the worktop



Clockwise from top left
 Black Anticato granite worktops offer a matt, antiqued finish. Extra wine storage is created with old apple crates. Crockery and cutlery sits ready to be laid out for dinner. A water jug from The Blue Egg in Great Bardfield is a meal time must. Susanna chose to substitute Wolf's classic red knobs for stainless steel. These two boxes provide handy storage





HIDDEN KITCHEN

A traditional ceramic butler sink is the focal point of the scullery and is where Susanna undertakes her messier household tasks. The mixer tap is supplemented by a pull-out rinse to give extra flexibility

'The scullery is great when we have dinner parties as I can stack up all the dirty plates and dishes around the corner and out of sight'

DIVINE DINING

The island, housing integrated refrigerator drawers, dishwasher, recycling bin and cutlery and pan drawers, overlooks the impressive orangery. Seating up to 14, the dining table was so long that it had to be constructed on site





'The space is the thing I love most about the kitchen, it feels so luxurious. The boys can even rush around it on their scooters, although bikes have been banned!'

Stockists

APPLIANCES

ICBDF486G dual fuel **range cooker**, £15,456; ICBIS15/S electric **steamer cooktop**, £2,532; ICID-30RP integrated **refrigerator drawers**, £5,136; ICBIT-36CID **fridge-freezer** with internal ice maker, £9,588 plus £1,788 for doors; ICB427RG **wine storage**, £9,384 each plus £1,440 for door and drawer fronts (per unit), all Sub-Zero & Wolf. IQ700 fully integrated **dishwashers**, £840 each, Siemens. Classic **boiling water tap**, £1,030, Quooker.

FIXTURES AND FURNISHINGS

Black Anticato granite **worktop**, £342 per sq. m; Attica tumbled travertine **floor tiles**, £54 per sq. m; European oak bespoke **dining table**, £4,500; Distressed mirror **splashback**, £960, all Humphrey Munson Kitchens. GAK11039 Galassia ceramic undermount **sink**, £282, Franke. Double ceramic **butler sink** F80, £486, Villeroy & Boch. Minoan **mixer tap** with crosshead handles in Pewter, £395; Ionian **mixer tap** with rinse in Pewter, £613, both Perrin & Rowe. Athene **bar stools**, £399 each; Bourne **dining chairs**, £279 each, all Lloyd Loom of Spalding. Stanley **pendants** in hammered nickel (above island), £431 each; Titan **pendant** in aluminium with natural interior, £263, all Original BTC. Facet **chandelier**, from £4,212, Tom Kirk Lighting. Window **blind** (in scullery) made in Sitari in blossom, £30 per metre, Romo. **Accessories** from The Blue Egg.

ARCHITECT Charlie Biss at BB Partnership Ltd.
Tel 020 7336 8555. bbpartnership.co.uk

INTERIOR DESIGNER Jenny Lellow, Inside Job by Lellow.
Tel 020 8504 7171. insidejobonline.co.uk

ORANGERY Westbury Garden Rooms.
Tel 01245 808143. westburygardenrooms.com

FOR STOCKISTS, SEE PAGE 150

LEADING LIGHT

The light chandelier hanging above the dining table is a bespoke version of Tom Kirk's Facet chandelier which is made from mirror polished stainless steel. 'I managed to persuade the designer to make me one that was large enough to hang over the dining table,' says Susanna, 'It looks really beautiful when lit up'

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Price of this Limehouse Kitchen; island and complete wall run including cabinets not in shot is £11,500.

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ROOM TO *Breathe*

Benji Philipson's super-spacious new kitchen mixes modern and traditional, fresh white and bold colour, clean lines and geometric shapes - in a design that combines style with substance

PICTURES **DARREN CHUNG** | WORDS **AMELIA THORPE**

COOL STORAGE

The Fisher & Paykel fridge-freezer and Smeg oven, microwave and warming drawer are built in to the specially designed housing, and are immaculately tiled in a uniform half-brick bond pattern. The inky blue Metro tiles on the exterior are traditionally made in Stoke-on-Trent by H & E Smith

W

hen Benji Philipson describes the renovations to his three-storey Victorian house in North London as a 'considerable overhaul', he means it. New heating, plumbing, electrics and state-of-the-art technology was installed throughout. And that was just the start. 'The house hadn't been touched since the 1960s,' explains Benji, a marketing consultant, 'so there was lots to do to get it up to scratch.'

One of the first and most major challenges was to extend over the side return and a metre or so into the garden at the rear of the property to create a much larger, wider kitchen space. 'The concept was to create a room designed for cooking, eating and just hanging out when people come over,' he says.

Working with architects Gundry & Ducker, Benji's kitchen space now feels open, spacious and filled with natural light. The rear wall is punctuated by a window seat and a glazed screen with double doors,

both framing views of the garden, while a dramatic skylight runs the length of the room. Complete with specially commissioned tongue and groove chevron cladding on the sloping ceiling and a bespoke lime-washed oak floor with a geometric pattern, the room is about as far removed from a bland box as possible.

'I wanted a sense of modern meets old, something with character that would sit comfortably with the age of the house,' explains Benji, who made this the basis of his brief to designer Lizzie Hagon of Harvey Jones Kitchens. 'The Shaker-style cabinetry is well-crafted and traditional in feel, but it looks fresh in white, and works well with the sleek floor.'

And the Midnight Blue Metro tiles which clad the appliance housing? 'I grew up in Rio de Janeiro by the beach, so I love nautical colours,' says Benji. He credits this choice of tiles, as well as the limewashed floors, to the advice of his friend jewellery designer Phoebe Coleman, who he says also undertakes the occasional interior design project. **EKBB**



ISLAND LIFE

One side of the island has space to pull up some bar stools, the other makes the main cooking station in the room - with hob, ovens and fridge freezer all in easy reach of each other

**CLEVER
CARPENTRY**

The 'floating' shelf was made by the builder and painted inky blue to match the appliance housing unit

Kitchen profile

Traditionally made Shaker cabinetry by Harvey Jones Kitchens is hand-painted on site in specially mixed off-white eggshell, and teamed with Linear Loft handles in polished chrome and Compac Luna quartz worktops. Definition is provided by bespoke appliance housing, clad in Midnight Blue Metro tiles, offset by the chevron pattern of the tongue and groove sloping ceiling and geometric shapes painted on the limewashed oak floor.

HARVEY JONES KITCHENS

53 England's Lane, Hampstead, London, NW3 4YD.
Tel 0800 389 6938. harveyjones.com
Kitchen prices from £18,000.

CHEVRON DETAIL

The tongue and groove ceiling was made by Hughes Builders from white painted pine, fixed in a chevron pattern



LIZZIE HAGON
DESIGNER, HARVEY
JONES KITCHENS

Q&A

How did you create the layout? I began by working with the architect's plans, before the extension had been built. I could see that it was important to create a sense of flow, without any visual obstacles between the entrance and the garden doors, to maximise the open feel and garden views. So it made sense to run the kitchen cabinetry along one wall, and then introduce the island below the skylight. An island is important in an open-plan space: it creates a focal point, somewhere to prep and cook,

and brings the design into the room and away from the walls.

Can you tell us about the style of the cabinetry, colours and finishes?

The Shaker-style of the doors is classic, which suits the age of the house, but it is also unfussy and in its painted white finish, it looks fresh, light and clean. This effect is accentuated by slender white Compac quartz worktops. Together, they create a simple contrast to the appliance housing which is clad in Midnight Blue Metro tiles

from H & E Smith, which has produced tiles for the London Underground for years.

What is the main reason for the success of the room?

I love the way that light streams into the room. And the effect of the simple white cabinetry against the individual touches – such as the chevron pattern of the sloping ceiling, the blue tiles, the geometric pattern on the floor, the bright pops of colour from the bar stools and the beautiful painting – making the space feel friendly and inviting.

LIGHT ME UP

Brass fittings, LED
under-shelf lights and a
row of three Lee Broom
Crystal Bulb pendants
add subtle glamour



SURFACE TREND

The floor is made of wide oak boards, painted with a geometric pattern in deep blue, then lime-washed for a cool finish, by Hughes Builders

Stockists

APPLIANCES

SFP390X **oven**, £595; S45MCX2 compact **microwave**, £748; CTSC21X **warming drawer**, £428; Di6013 fully integrated **dishwasher**, £520, all Smeg. EH801FM17E **induction hob**, £749, Siemens. W13117 **wine cabinet**, £369, Caple.

FIXTURES AND FURNISHINGS

Phoenician 4460CP **mixer**, £303, Perrin & Rowe. Largo LAX 160-36/16 undermounted stainless steel 1.5 bowl **sink**, £459, Franke. Compac polished Luna **worktops**, about £5,000, Harvey Jones Kitchens. Bespoke **floor**, made to order, from about £216 per sq. m; Bespoke chevron-patterned **ceiling cladding**, made and priced to order; both Hughes Builders. Metro **wall tiles** in Midnight Blue, £91.80 per sq. m, H & E Smith. Metal-framed **doors and windows**, priced to order, Clement Windows. Lee Broom Crystal Bulb **pendants**, from £189 each, John Lewis. Tolix high **stools**, £183 each, Made In Design. **Painting** by Tahnee Lonsdale.

ARCHITECT Gundry & Ducker. Tel 020 3417 4895.
gundryducker.com

CONSTRUCTION Hughes Builders. Tel 020 8743 8254.
hughes-builders.com

INTERIOR DESIGN Phoebe Coleman. phoebecoleman.com

FOR STOCKISTS, SEE PAGE 150



MATRIX KITCHENS

KNIGHTSBRIDGE

10 Thurloe Place
Knightsbridge
London,
SW7 2RZ

Tel: 020 7808 0340
design@matrixkitchens.co.uk
www.matrixkitchens.co.uk

Restful calm

Sue and Diane worked out a clever way to incorporate an expansive kitchen into their sensitively restored home

PICTURES DARREN CHUNG | WORDS AMELIA THORPE

Originally built as a house for a family of Victorian bellows makers who came from Cornwall to work in the thriving industries of Birmingham, this is a property with special interest for present owners, Sue Howard and Diane Dowley. 'We have the original deeds, which make for fascinating reading,' says Sue. 'They detail everyone who lived in the house when it was built in 1858, and almost paint a picture of the times.'

'Because of the age and history of the house, we have taken a long time to restore it sensitively,' explains Sue, a former police officer-turned care home owner. After buying the property from an elderly lady who had lived there for about fifty years, Sue and Diane have spent the last eighteen years gradually working their way through each floor, sympathetically restoring the original features, from fireplaces to coving. Then it came to the kitchen. 'We put in some units to make the room liveable when we first moved in, but it still felt rather small and gloomy,' she says.

Given their love of entertaining, Sue and Diane wanted more space and more light to set the scene for their frequent dinner parties, drinks and family get togethers. Their solution was an unusual one: as well as extending across the rear of the room, they also built over the old stables and outhouses to the side, even incorporating two stable doors with their original cut-out motifs into the new room. The result is spacious and filled with natural light from a sweep of glass roof and two sets of wide bi-fold glass doors, overlooking the lush half-acre garden.

'We fell in love with the furniture at Martin Moore,' continues Sue. 'It is beautifully made with a classic look that we knew would blend with the age of the house, but with clean lines and unfussy detailing that enhance the spacious, calm feel we wanted to create.' Sue says she loves cooking and entertaining, but life is sometimes very hectic. 'We lead such busy lives that it's also great to have a space to relax,' she says. 'Sometimes you just have to switch off, and this is the perfect place to unwind.' **EKBB**





TIME TO RELAX

Sue loves to cook and chose the latest set of modular hobs by De Dietrich, including two zoneless induction hobs and a teppan yaki plate, complete with long downdraft extractor, ducted underneath the floor



Kitchen profile

The English Kitchen cabinetry, painted in Paint & Paper Library Stone II, creates a classic look in this large kitchen, its beautiful simplicity enhanced by natural light which floods the room. A large island is painted in a specially mixed (Dulux 40YY 51/084) shade of soft wattle green while cabinetry is finished with satin chrome signature knobs. Polished Kashmir White granite tops the work surfaces. A vintage AGA enjoys pride of position – opposite the latest luxury appliances by top brands De Dietrich, Liebherr and Gaggenau.

MARTIN MOORE & COMPANY

36 Church Street, Altrincham, Cheshire,
WA14 4DW. Tel 0845 180 0015.
martinmoore.com
Kitchen prices from £35,000.



A DOG'S LIFE

Frankie, the Dachshund, loves the refurbishment as much as his owners



ORIGINAL DETAILS

The stable door is original, as are the decorative motifs, and once formed part of a series of outbuildings next to the house. Today, the door marks the entrance to the laundry room



HANDY HANGOUT

The island top features an overhang with gently curved edges, making a comfortable place to pull up a bar stool for a drink or coffee, or for friends to sit and chat to Sue while she is cooking





SOFT INTERIOR

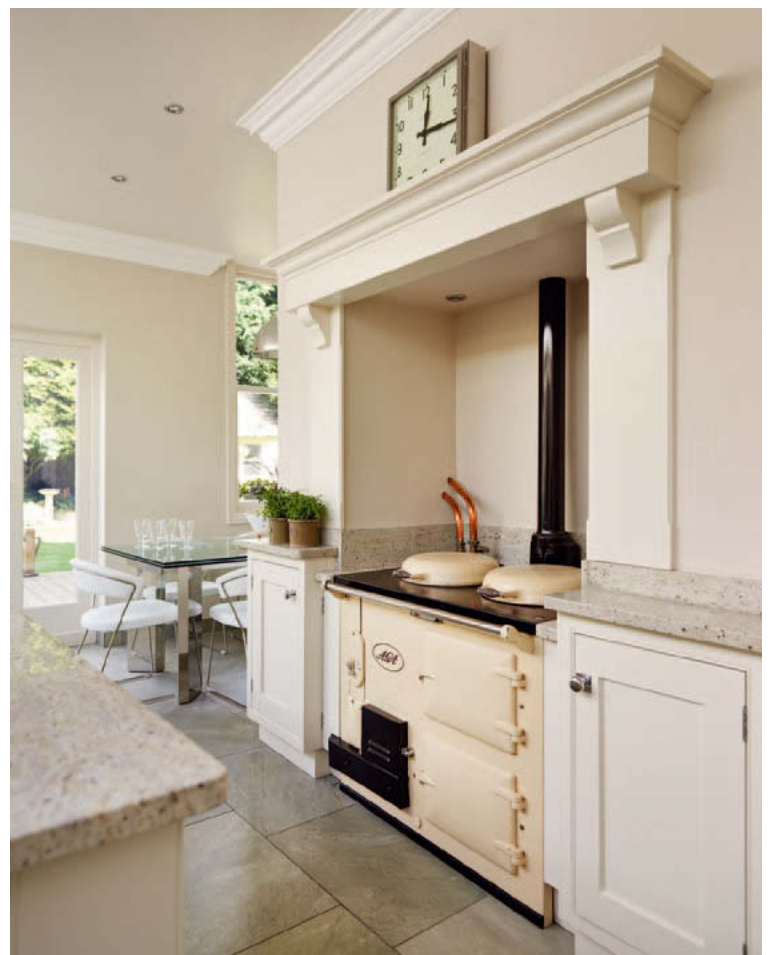
The appliance cupboard conceals the small gadgets, including blender, toaster and coffee machine, which can be slid back into place after use. As an elegant detail, the interior of the cupboard is painted in the same soft shade as the island

VINTAGE AGA

The cream AGA cooker is thought to date from the 1940s or 50s and is one of the early traditional models. It would have originally run on solid fuel and has since been converted to gas



'We lead such busy lives that it's great to have the space to relax. This is the perfect place to unwind'





‘The starting point to the layout was the existing AGA, which is a vintage model housed in the original chimney breast’



MARK SLACK
SENIOR DESIGNER,
MARTIN MOORE
& COMPANY



What was your concept?

Sue and Diane wanted a light, open feel in the room, which made the most of its enhanced size and easy access to the garden. Together, we worked on a design using our English Kitchen cabinetry – it has a classic look in keeping with the age of the house, but also has a beautiful simplicity, without fussy embellishment that might ‘crowd’ the room. Instead, the doors take their inspiration from pared-back Shaker furniture, but they have a simple moulding detail within the frame and cock-bead

around the door to catch the light and add gentle interest.

How did you create the layout? The starting point was the existing AGA, which is a vintage model housed in the original chimney breast. We added a simple overmantel to frame the AGA and create a characterful, old-meets-new focal point. The large island is the central prep, cooking, serving and socialising area, and links both sides of the wide space. The tall cabinets opposite house the wine chiller, ovens, integrated fridge and larder storage all together.

Can you tell us about the choice of colours and finishes?

The English Kitchen cabinets in this kitchen are painted in a soft stone colour, which enhances the light feel of the room, as does the polished Kashmir White granite of the worktops. The island is painted in a slightly darker shade of stone with a subtle green hue, inspired by the colours of the floor tiles. It breaks up the stone shades and draws the eye to the centre of the room. The palette is calm and restful, and doesn’t fight with the beautiful garden views.

LITTLE DETAILS

Tongue and groove panelling on the island end adds character and the extra-wide panels designed to accentuate the spacious feel of the room. ‘It’s the details that count,’ says Mark Slack. ‘Narrow panels can make a room feel cramped’

WATER WORKS

The Quooker tap offers instant boiling water, next to a Franke Fuji mixer with spray to make light work of washing fruit and vegetables

SIMPLE ADDITIONS

The Compact touch control combination microwave is housed above an oven with De Dietrich’s Intelligent Cooking System, a function which uses sensors to automatically set time and temperature

Stockists

APPLIANCES

For a similar renovated vintage **AGA**, from £3,995, contact AGA Twyford. DOP1160X **oven**, £1,000; DMET145X compact combination **microwave**, £950; DWD1114X **warming drawer**, £550; DHD1100X **downdraft extractor**, £1,450; DT11041X zoneless **induction hobs**, £500 each; DTE1168X **teppan yaki**, £1,000, all De Dietrich. IKBP 3554 integrated **fridge**, £1,450, Liebherr. RW464 361 integrated **wine storage** unit, £6,500, Gaggenau. **Boiling water tap** in polished chrome, £680, Quooker.

FIXTURES AND FURNISHINGS

Fuji spray **tap** in chrome, £251; Ariane ARX 160 D 1.5 bowl undermounted stainless steel **sink**,

£349, Franke. Polished Kashmir White granite **worktops**, from £245 per sq. m, Martin Moore & Company. SensioPod **pull up socket**, £104, Sensio. Calligaris New York **bar stools**, £521 each; Calligaris New York **dining chairs** with sled base, £303 each; Similar Calligaris **dining table**, about £2,000, all Cookes. Original BTC Titan **pendant light**, from £209; Newgate Quad wall clock, £105, both John Lewis. Similar stone-effect porcelain **floor tiles**, from a selection, Porcelanosa.

CONSTRUCTION Homework of Sutton. Coldfield. Tel 07712 488423.

FOR STOCKISTS, SEE PAGE 150

WARM WELCOME

The original kitchen floor had four different levels. To enhance the spacious feel, Sue and Diane had the entire surface re-levelled. They then added underfloor heating and re-tiled throughout with a large format and hard-wearing porcelain stone-effect design



IN THE *Zone*

In a welcoming and super-size new-build, Diane and Peter Robinson have used contrasting dark and light shades to create a functional, open-plan kitchen

PICTURES **DARREN CHUNG** | WORDS **AMELIA THORPE**

Despite having never built a house before, Diane and Peter Robinson were determined that there would be no half-measures when it came to designing and building their brand new home in Cambridgeshire. 'We wanted a very modern design – a big, open-plan space,' explains Diane. So when architect Gary Johns drew up his initial plans, even he suggested they sit down before he unveiled his designs. 'I think Gary thought we wouldn't be brave enough to go for something really contemporary, but we both loved his drawings and couldn't wait to get started on the build,' she smiles as she reflects on this.

Over an eighteen month period, the five bedroom, five bathroom house took shape. Built in the large garden at the rear of their former 1950s home, which they sold during the process, the new property is spacious and filled with natural light. And the room in which that natural light is most evident is the ground floor kitchen and dining area, which spans the entire width of the back of the house, complete with three sets of two-metre sliding glass doors and four metres of bi-fold glass doors – that's about 10 metres of floor-to-ceiling glazing, plus a picture window. 'It's a beautiful big space with views of the garden and the nature reserve beyond,' describes Diane, who enjoys watching the occasional pheasant strutting across the lawn.

Fitness instructor Diane and banker Peter both enjoy entertaining, so, when it came to the kitchen, their priority was to create a space suited to socialising. After meeting Susan Humphries, Design Consultant at Nicholas Anthony, they began to develop plans for a contemporary kitchen, in keeping with the modern design of the house, with a well thought-out layout that suited the space and worked well. 'I knew we would use the room a lot – I enjoy cooking, especially baking – and so it certainly wasn't going to be a show kitchen with ovens that were never used,' says Diane.

And the result? 'Susan did an amazing job – I love how she zoned the space, so that we have a designated area for cooking, but don't feel cut off from the rest of the room. It feels calm and comfortable, and makes a great space to get together with friends.' **EKBB**

SEAMLESS FLOW

Polished porcelain floor tiles sparkle with metallic flecks, marking the kitchen zone and 'grounding' the island in the large room

TIME OUT

Diane takes a moment to relax with a coffee and her favourite magazines





EASY ACCESS

Wide drawers, finished in Stone Grey, provide plenty of easy-to-access storage, so Diane can quickly reach for a pan when she is cooking



IN THE DETAIL

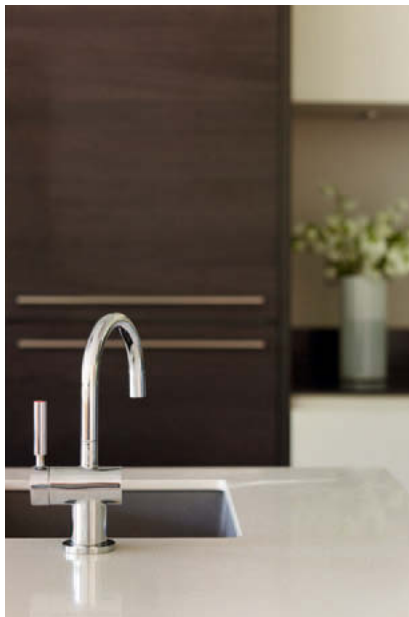
The tall cabinets house integrated fridge-freezers by Siemens. The doors are finished with simple Design Bar handles in brushed steel for easy opening

ESSENTIALT AP

The InSinkErator hot and cold water tap in polished chrome dispenses steaming hot and cold filtered water using a single handle lever action

LIGHT & SPACE

The Silestone Blanco Norte island worktop is made of engineered quartz. Its polished surface reflects light and enhances the sense of space



'It's important to define the kitchen area and make sure the main appliances are all in easy reach'



SUSAN HUMPHRIES
DESIGN CONSULTANT,
NICHOLAS ANTHONY

How did you create the layout?

In a very large room like this, no one wants to have to walk for miles just to prepare a meal, so it is very important to define the kitchen zone, and make sure the main appliances, work surface and sink are all in easy reach. Here, the starting point was the bank of tall units, which 'anchor' the design and house the built-in ovens and integrated fridge-freezers. The island is opposite and houses the hob, main work surface and prep sink. When friends come in, they always want somewhere to sit - and the row of bar stools on the 'non-working' side of the

island means they can sit themselves down and chat to Diane when she is cooking, without interrupting her flow.

Can you tell us about the cabinetry and colours?

In keeping with the modern concept, the Nicholas Anthony Y Line furniture is sleekly linear and largely handleless, and we used timeless colours and a mix of textures to add warmth and interest. Diane and Peter have used a limed oak floor throughout the ground level, so we echoed the wood grain look with a timber effect finish for the tall cabinets, opting for a dark shade to provide

contrast and to echo the tones of the dark porcelain-tiled floor that zones the kitchen area. The mix of Crystal and Stone Grey for the drawers and doors add to the naturally inspired mix.

Tell us about the ceiling feature and its impact?

Diane and Peter did not want a hanging extractor hood to obscure the garden view, so we chose a ceiling model. Its ducting is hidden into a suspended ceiling bulk head, designed to look as if it is almost floating above the island. It makes an interesting feature, especially when the built-in lights are on at night.

Q&A

EYE CANDY

'I'm indecisive,'
laughs Diane.
'I couldn't decide
which colours
to choose for the
bar stools, so I went
for one of each'



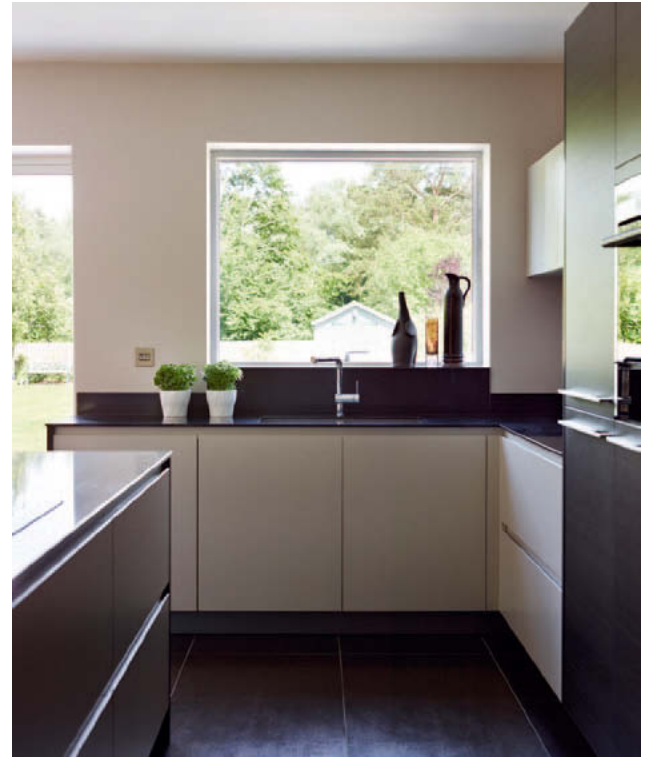


KEEP IT CLEAN

The main sink area is within easy reach of the cooking zone, but plates can be brought here from the dining table without getting in the cook's way

ON THE WALL

To create a display area, the far wall is clad in the same finish as the tall cabinets, with contrasting wall-hung cupboards in Crystal laminate and shelves in Silver Brown laminate and shelves in Silver Brown laminate to match the panel behind the television



Kitchen profile

Nicholas Anthony Signature Collection Y Line handleless furniture in matt finish Crystal laminate provides light contrast to tall cabinets and a wall panel in Oak Coloured Black finish. The Stone Grey drawers on the island introduce a third colour for interest and Silestone Negro Tabas and Blanco Norte worktops create a polished finish, as do the glossy bar stools in lollipop colours.

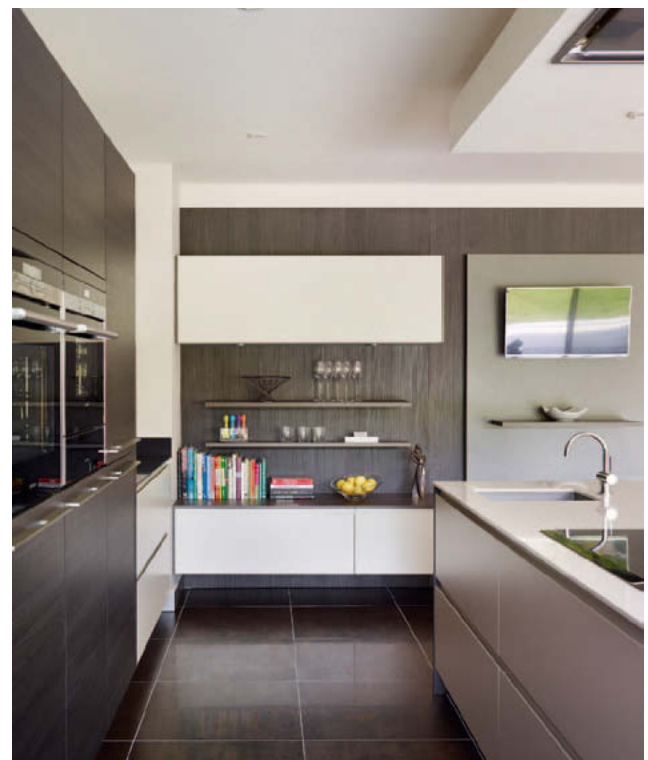
NICHOLAS ANTHONY

120 East Road, Cambridge, CB1 1DB.

Also at Ascot, Colchester, Knightsbridge and West End London.

Tel (Cambridge) 0800 068 3603. nicholas-anthony.co.uk

Kitchen prices from £25,000.



STEP IT UP

A professional metal fabricator made the steel spine of the staircase and provided the frameless glass balustrade, while a joiner crafted the solid oak treads and hand rails, finished in a lime wash to match the flooring

SOFT & NATURAL

The Oak Brighton floor creates a soft backdrop to the dining area with further warmth added by the honey-coloured oak table and chairs



Stockists

APPLIANCES AND FIXTURES

HB78GB590B **oven**, £1,095; HB34D553B compact **steam oven**, £1,015; HB84K552B compact combination **microwave**, £738; HW1405P2B **warming drawers**, £399 each; EH875SM2IE **induction hob**, £879; LF959RB50B ceiling-mounted **extractor hood**, £1,190; Similar integrated **fridge-freezers**, K186SAF30G, £720 each; SN65M031GB fully integrated **dishwasher**, £459; GU15DA50GB integrated built-under **freezer**, £408, all Siemens. HC3300CP **hot and cold water tap**, £783, InSinkErator.

FIXTURES AND FURNISHINGS

BlancoLinus-S **mixer** in chrome, £250; BlancoSubline 350/350-U two bowl undermounted **sink** in Alumetallic, £538; BlancoSubline 320-U one bowl undermounted **sink**, £365, all Blanco. Silestone Negro Tabas and Blanco Norte **worktops**, priced to order, Nicholas Anthony. Luxor Black porcelain **floor tiles**, 60x60cm, £50 per sq. m, Royston Home Store. Oak Brighton **wood flooring**, £70 per sq. m, Kährs. Comet gas lift **bar stools**, from £40 each, Dunelm Mill. Diane and Peter bought their **dining table and chairs** at auction, try John Lewis for similar. Oblong Crystal and Glass Chrome **light**, £265, Lighting Styles. **Staircase** steel and glass supply, D & H Engineering Cambridge. **Staircase oak treads and hand rails**, Sawston Joinery.

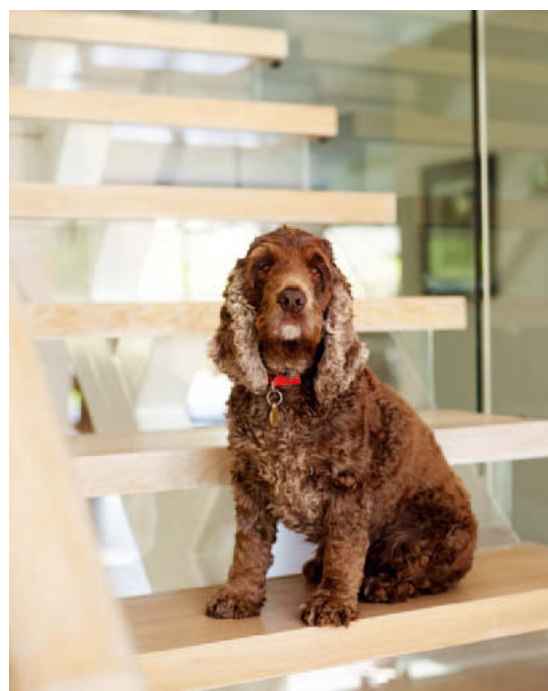
ARCHITECT Gary Johns Architects.

Tel 01353 665374. johnsarchitects.co.uk

CONSTRUCTION Ley Construction.

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FOR STOCKISTS, SEE PAGE 150



PUPPY LOVE

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*three of which are cooking

Miele
IMMER BESSER



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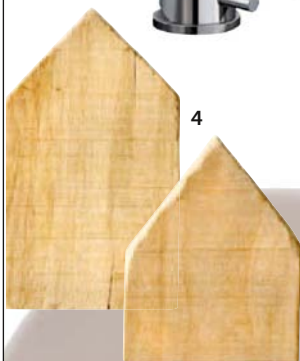
Back to BLACK

Introduce sophisticated wood furniture and Japanese-style cookware for a diverse look. Add a mixture of industrial and minimalist designs to create a neutral palette with striking ebony accents

COMPILED BY KIRSTEN JONES



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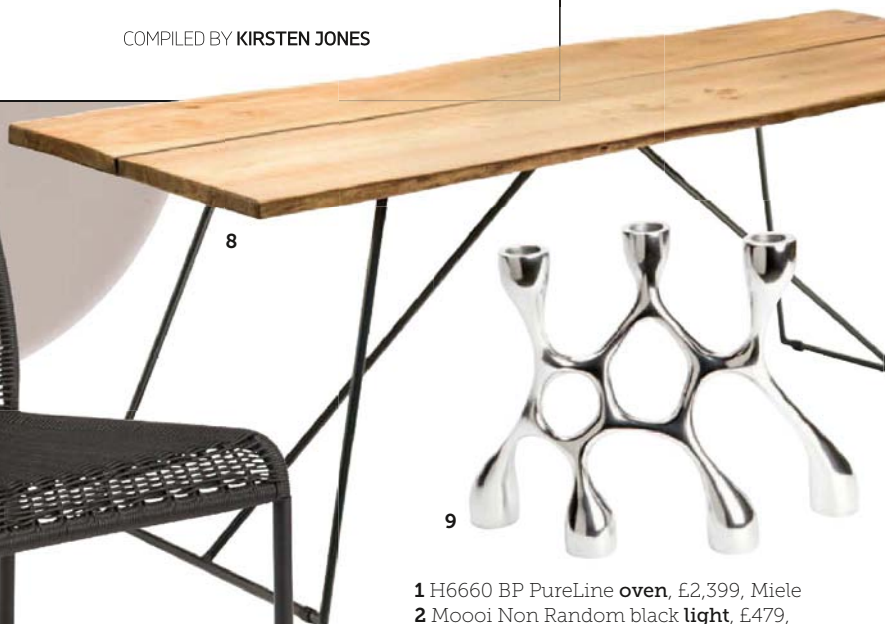
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- 1 H6660 BP PureLine **oven**, £2,399, Miele
 2 Moooi Non Random black **light**, £479, Occa-Home
 3 Periscope-S-F II mixer **tap**, £706, Blanco
 4 Natural house **ornaments**, from £15 each, Bloomingville
 5 Menu Norm bottle **carafes**, £36 each, Heal's
 6 Asian-style Lotus **teapot**, from £42, Divertimenti
 7 Paw Print **claypaint**, from £32.70 for 2.5l, Earthborn Paints
 8 Zeus Old Times **table**, £2,189, Made In Design
 9 Polished aluminium Vela **candleholder**, £55, Aram Store
 10 Mackie black rattan dining **chair**, £60, Habitat
 11 Ceramic white deli **bowl**, £44, Tine K Home

FOR STOCKISTS, SEE PAGE 150





KITCHEN DESIGN

SieMatic's IndividualDesign arrangement features a mix of furniture from its portfolio in Graphite Gray gloss and Natural Walnut finishes. Creating individual character and functionality, a SieMatic kitchen with S2 cabinetry is from £20,000

Island

APPEAL

The key to a functional and social kitchen is choosing a central cooking and entertaining zone

WORDS **HARRIET PAIGE**

IN THE ROUND

Including a hob, sink and circular breakfast bar in solid ash, the island is the working hub of this clean and simple kitchen from Elmar's EL01 collection.

Available from Laurence Pidgeon, priced from £20,000

A

n island has become an essential part of the modern kitchen, particularly in an open-plan space where it creates not only a practical cooking zone but also acts as a vital

room divider between it and the dining or living areas. Whatever its function, it will end up becoming both a visual and social focal point, so its design needs to be carefully considered.

A functional island is never planned in isolation and when designing one you'll need to think about how you want it to perform within the overall kitchen scheme, considering the usual work triangle between hob, sink and fridge. Usually, either the hob or a sink will be positioned on the island to create an ergonomic configuration and allow it to work in tandem with the opposite kitchen counter and preparation space.

You may prefer to keep the top of the island as aesthetically clean as possible without taps and burners. However, bear in mind that the island will inevitably become a gathering point for family and guests and you'll miss out on interacting with them while you cook if your main task centres are located elsewhere. Instead, consider choosing hobs and sinks that are as visually unobtrusive as possible – a top-of-the-range induction hob that will sit flush with the worktop and/or a small under-mounted prep sink with a simple slimline mixer tap would be ideal.

Once you have decided which elements, if any, of your work triangle are going to be located on the island, the other components should fall into place around it. If your hob is to be positioned here, you'll want long drawers for utensils, as well as deep pan drawers. If the island is going to be your main preparation area you'll want waste, recycling and compost bins nearby too. Also, if your kitchen is large and your main fridge isn't nearby it may be worth considering a small under-counter fridge.

Seating is also likely to be a consideration. Even if you don't intend for your island to be used as an informal dining area, people will certainly congregate around it and it'll be more congenial if they have somewhere to sit. 'An island always becomes the focal point,' says Jamie Telford, Director of bespoke kitchen company Roundhouse Design. 'For this reason it's advisable to make the island as large as you can comfortably fit in to your kitchen. If it's too mean in size you won't get all the benefits it can bring.'

Seating can either be incorporated by leaving a gap in the run of cabinets along one side of the island to create a recess, or by allowing the worktop to overhang the cabinets, perhaps choosing reduced depth cupboards with sliding doors for the area behind the bar stools. If space allows, another option is to add a separate dining area, much like a table, at a slightly lower level, either as a continuation of the island at one end or at right angles to it. Another popular, and more space-saving, option is to create a raised bar area running along one or two sides, which also gives the opportunity to introduce another material into the design. The step between the two areas is also a handy place to position sockets.

'We often team robust work surfaces such as stainless steel with a breakfast bar in something like solid wenge or wholestave oak,' says Jamie. This will also help break up the uniformity of the kitchen and will give your island a separate identity. **EKBB**



ALL WHITE NOW

This island from the bulthaup b1 collection features a chunky 60mm solid laminate worktop, into which an induction hob has been fitted for a sleek, flush finish. A raised solid oak breakfast bar adds warmth and gives the island a sociable dimension. Prices start from around £20,000



SIMPLE STYLE

Bar stools sit neatly in a recess between two sets of wide drawers in this white painted island with granite worktops by Martin Moore. A custom-built downdraft extractor acts as a divide between the seating area and the Miele induction hob. Kitchens start at £35,000



MARK SMITH-LOMAS
SHOWROOM
DESIGNER, ALNO

What should we consider when designing an island?

Always think about workspace requirements and the type of seating required, if any. Usually the 'cooking side' of the island will have a hob and possibly a second sink for food preparation. To the rear there may be a high-level breakfast bar and open-shelf storage or display cabinets. From an installation perspective, the cost of gas, electricity, plumbing and extraction supplies should not be underestimated and the visual impact should not be left to chance – an ill-fitting island is very hard to live with.

What is the ideal positioning of an island in relation to other cabinetry?

I usually allow at least one metre but this depends on the type of opening the surrounding cabinets and appliances have.

What about the size of the island itself?

Islands with back-to-back units are generally between 950mm and 1200mm deep. The closeness of gas hobs to raised breakfast bars should be considered from a safety aspect. In terms of length, the maximum size of stone worktop slabs may be a restriction to consider.

Are there any pitfalls to be aware of?

A common error is incorporating your main sink into an island. This is usually detrimental to the visual impact of the kitchen as unsightly dirty pots left on the drainer are on show where guests can see.

What are your tricks for reducing the visual 'weight' of an island?

Illuminating a higher mirror clad plinth will create a floating effect that will give the illusion of lightness.

Q&A



NATURAL SELECTION

The ALNO Cera kitchen from the ceramic collection is available in an Oxide Nero finish. It is made with durable ceramic materials and natural stone and offers a sleek, handleless design. This tactile surface is scratch and heat resistant and is easy-to-clean. It's priced from around £25,000

ISLAND DINING

The cabinet doors of this island from the Newport range by Sola Kitchens are made from solid ash, with interiors in solid wood with oak veneer. A dining area in whitestained ash extends the island at one end, with a variation in height to differentiate between cooking and eating areas. Kitchens from the Newport Range start from £30,000





FEELING BLUE

Left The cabinets in this island by Tom Howley have been painted in a sophisticated deep blue, adding depth to this otherwise pale-hued kitchen. A hard-wearing Silestone worktop in Yukon provides a practical and stylish food preparation area. Kitchens are priced from £35,000

IN THE FRAME

Below Consisting of a set of iron tubes, the carcasses of the Meccanica system from demode (a sister company of Valcucine) can easily be assembled at home. This skeleton can either be left bare for a deconstructed look, or doors and side panels can be added. Prices start at £10,000

‘The visual impact of your kitchen island should not be left to chance - an ill-fitting island is very hard to live with’





KATIE FONTANA
CREATIVE DESIGNER,
PLAIN ENGLISH

Q&A

How do you approach the design of an island?

Every kitchen is different but islands tend to have a working side and a more presentable side, which I try to keep as visually clean as possible. We don't necessarily match the island to the rest of the kitchen but treat it as a separate piece of furniture within the room. Often the worktop will be in a different material, or the frame might be in a different colour or design. A trend among

our customers is to go for traditional Georgian style cupboards and team them with a modern island. If the island is formed predominantly of cupboards, however, there's a strong case for matching it to the rest of the room.

Any pointers on incorporating seating?

Personally I don't really like seating as it tends to compromise the design but many of our customers want and

require it so I've found ways to incorporate it in a visually pleasing way. I prefer to create an overhang of the worktop at each end rather than a recess, but recesses can work in some settings.

Many of your kitchen islands are raised up on legs. Why? This gives a less 'blocky' look and creates space. If someone wanted to incorporate a sink into our worktable I'd probably use copper pipes and make a feature of it.

SHAKER STYLE

Creative Designer at Plain English, Katie Fontana, exhaustively researched the principals of Shaker design in the creation of the Williamsburg kitchen. With its tall legs, low-slatted shelf, and pull-out drawer on each side, this compact island in black walnut with a maple worktop is similar to a traditional kitchen workbench. Kitchens are priced from £60,000



SQUARED UP

The surface of this luxuriously large island from Martin Moore has been kept as clear as possible, with nothing but a small preparation sink to interrupt the beautiful Caesarstone worktop in Buttermilk. A recessed breakfast bar provides an unobtrusive dining area. Kitchens start from £35,000

'We don't necessarily match the island to the rest of the kitchen but treat it as a separate piece of furniture within the room'



AT THE BAR

The cabinets in this island from the Poggenpohl +Editions range are in Blossom White to contrast with those on the perimeter which are in Natural Nut Tree. The island features a Miele induction hob which, together with the main sink behind and extensive preparation area alongside, forms an ergonomic cooking zone. There is also a raised solid timber breakfast bar ideally placed for family and guests to enjoy drinks and conversation while meals are being prepared. Kitchens start at £30,000



OPEN-ENDED

This unusual island from the Ariel range by Cesar Kitchens is purposefully asymmetrical in design, featuring a shielded sink area and cantilevered breakfast bar in slim white laminate. Three open shelves at the end of the unit provide useful additional storage space. One base unit with four drawers costs around £394



TURNING THE CORNER

If space allows, why not float your entire kitchen as a central L-shaped island, as seen here in the Moon Gola kitchen by Modulnova. Featuring a sunken gas hob, moulded sink, slim 5mm stainless steel worktops and a long-fumed oak breakfast bar, it's the ultimate in island living. Available from DesignSpaceLondon. Prices start at £25,000



MATERIAL MIX

This Varenna Poliform Artex kitchen features a contemporary base cabinet in Grafite laminate and a worktop with tapered edge thickness. To add warmth and a designated area for seating, the snack top is carved in oak. From £50,000

IT'S A STEEL

Elmar's SLIM kitchen collection features a stainless steel table island with open shelving and hanging rails for a stylish industrial look. Raised on slender legs, the unit has a light and airy feel that'd work well in a compact space. Available from Laurence Pidgeon, kitchens are from £20,000



THINGS TO CONSIDER

APPLIANCES Think carefully about which appliances, if any, you want to include in your island. Locating a sink and/or hob will make the island the task centre of your kitchen, but think about the inevitable mess and clutter this will create. If you prefer to maintain a cleaner look it may be best to consider locating appliances elsewhere.

POWER POINTS Including power points in your island will give you the flexibility to use small electrical appliances but plan carefully where they are located. Think about installing pop-up sockets or locating them behind a raised breakfast bar as sockets positioned at the end of an island can look unsightly.

SERVICES If you're including a sink, oven or hob in your island then you will need to plan a route for services. This can involve thoughtful planning and design, especially if you want your island to be raised off the ground.

SEATING Think about how your seating area is going to be used and make sure you allow enough space. If it's just a place for a few people to gather while food is prepared, you can get away with less. It's a good idea to choose your bar stools in conjunction with your island as the dimensions will affect how much space you need.



ON THE BENCH

The kitchen workbench from the bulthaup b2 range is a modular system in stainless steel, wood and natural stone that can be configured in a number of ways to suit individual requirements. In this example, a walnut module is sandwiched between two in stainless steel, one featuring a welded sink and mixer tap, the other a cooktop. The workbench starts at £4,000

‘Think about how your seating area will be used and allow space. It’s a good idea to choose bar stools in conjunction with your island design’



SHADES OF GREY

Both the sides and worktop of this smart island from Modulnova's Light Kitchen collection are in 12mm thick Satin Glass, giving a seamless, integrated look. A peninsula in natural oak extends the island and offers a substantial dining area. Available from DesignSpaceLondon with prices starting at £25,000

VISUAL IMPACT

Right Form and function are integral in the design of this freestanding island by Vipp. The top is made of 5mm solid stainless steel with an integrated, welded sink with rounded corners.

The frame is made of powder-coated aluminium profiles and the fronts are in powder-coated stainless steel. Prices start from £5,000 for Vipp kitchen furniture

MADE IN METAL

Far right Schiffini's Cinqueterre kitchen, designed by Vico Magistretti was the first 100 per cent aluminium kitchen. This sleek island features units in black anodised aluminium topped with Nero Assoluto Flamed granite with a cantilevered wenge breakfast bar. From £25,000, DesignSpaceLondon



'Usually either the hob or a sink will be positioned on the island to create an ergonomic configuration so the island works with the kitchen counter'



CENTRE POINT

High gloss melamine surfaces and Golden Oak and Silver Brown laminate units are all from the Signature Collection at Nicholas Anthony. The delicately chamfered edges on the island's Silstone worktop soften the look, while Corian has been used to create an over-hang that incorporates a handy breakfast bar. Kitchen prices start from £25,000

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Analog **table** with white laminate top by Jaime Hayon, £1,305, both Chaplins



Calligaris **Ice chair** £126, Lime Modern Living



Myriam Mourabit **Moroccan egg-shaped vase** £392, Moroccan Bazaar

Copper plated **Evanlea table lamp** £235, Out There Interiors



John Robshaw **Laal cushion** £89, Idyll Home



Three small **bowls** £35, Seek & Adore

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Urli wood vases £195 each, Trunk Home



Interior painted in **Grey Teal 226** (wall); **Wood Ash 229** (panelled wall and skirting); **Marigold 209** (stripe on wall), all from £35 for 2.5 litres Absolute matt emulsion, Little Greene



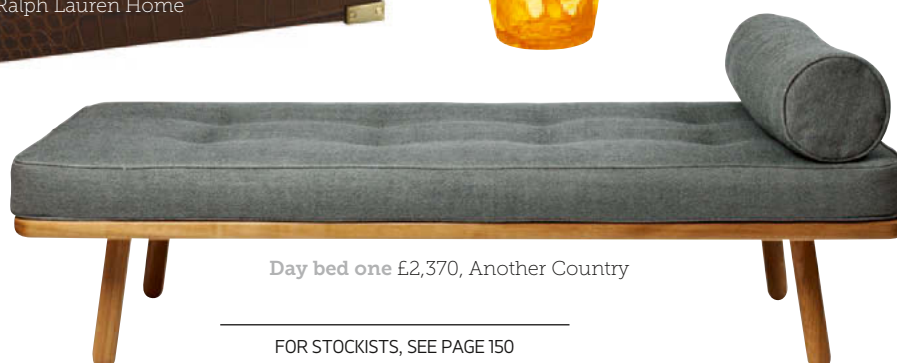
Tradition SR2 megabulb gold pendant £159, Cloudberry Living



Denley valet box £995, Ralph Lauren Home



Kosta Boda Mine tumblers £16.99 each, Scandinavian Shop



Day bed one £2,370, Another Country



Kinto Couture Lace Flower vase £20.50, 95 Percent

FOR STOCKISTS, SEE PAGE 150

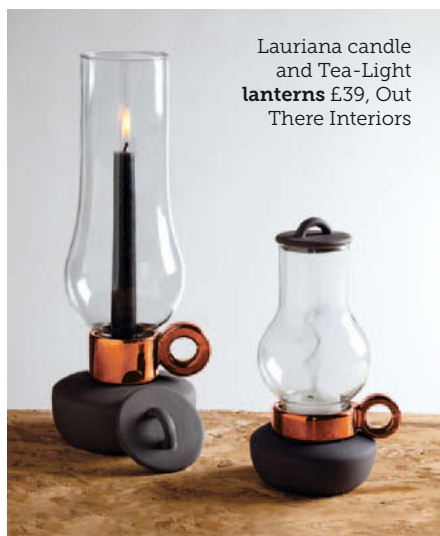


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Erika Design Decorative Palm £20, Lombok



PH 31/2-3 pendant in orange with metal shade and white rolled edges, £632, Louis Poulsen

Coiled stool £230, Umbra Shift



Wooden mint tray £19, Bloomingville



Carnaby Arches mug £18, Jonathan Adler



Stoneware cheese board £18, Anthropologie

Nyhavn vases from £18, Normann Copenhagen



FOR STOCKISTS, SEE PAGE 150

COMPILED BY KIRSTEN JONES

RETRO STYLE

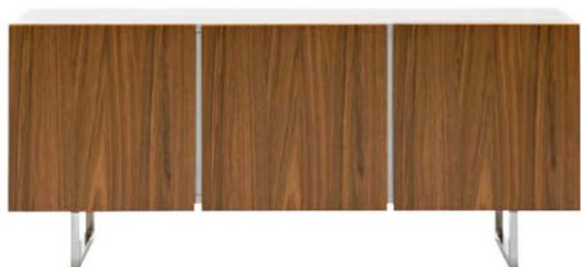
The Cattelan Italia Metropolis sideboard from Lime Modern Living is a picture of sophistication, boasting a retro wood frame and clear glass shelves. Available in Matt White and Graphite, it's priced from £2,136



Taking sides

Store your crockery and table linens in one of these sideboards

COMPILED BY KIRSTEN JONES



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- 1** Seattle wooden frame sideboard with metal base, £1,327, Calligaris **2** Mogg Rooms sideboard with American solid wood ash base, £2,700, Go Modern **3** 20:20 cabinet in European oak and Formica, £1,850, Nick James **4** Muuto Reflect oak sideboard in black, £2,590, Occa-Home **5** Onecollection Finn Juhl sideboard with solid walnut body and hand-burnished steel frame, £5,466, Nest **6** Hiroshima sideboard in whitened oak by Naoto Fukasawa for Maruni, from £3,013, Viaduct **7** Carved wood cabinet, £8,400, Keir Townsend **8** Bess white sideboard with oak legs, £529, Dwell

FOR STOCKISTS, SEE PAGE 150

Attention to detail

Soften a sleek, contemporary kitchen with attractive finishes by styling with handmade ceramics and accessories in a mix of delicate hues

PICTURES BRENT DARBY | STYLING MARISA DALY | STYLING ASSISTANT KIRSTEN JONES


(Left to right) Acacia curved **pepper mill**, £18, Habitat. Sowden Jakob softbrew **teapot**, £58.50, Amara. Stoneware white **salad bowl**, £45, The White Company. Iris Hantverk Bolja Wave **tea towel**, £14.50, Amara. Linea oak large pebble **chopping board**, £30, House of Fraser. Glass **carafe**, £16, The White Company





(On top of the cabinetry) Epicure white jug vase, £38; Stoneware brown water jug, £21, both The French House.

(On island, background to foreground) Stoneware mixing bowl, £29, The French House. Sophie Conran for Portmeirion storage pot, £17.60, John Lewis. Maro single-lever mixer, £920: Similar integrated flush sink, around £1,240, both Dornbracht. VKB french carafe gift set, £20; Abi Acacia chopping board, £25, both Habitat. Casa Couture beaten metal cutlery, £80 for 24-piece set, House of Fraser. Alno Cera kitchen in Oxide Avorio, featuring Ceramic Oxide Avorio worktops. Prices start from £25,000, Alno



(Background, left to right) Charm extractor, £1,500, Elica. LSA Lotta kitchen storage canister, £36, John Lewis. Green Lemon Grove beverage dispenser, £68; Blue rimmed colour pop juice glasses, £6 each, both Anthropologie. Corker round tray, £12; Fenton turquoise tumblers, £5 each, both Habitat. Neon border cocktail napkins, £28 set of six; Helianthos goblets, £6 each, both Anthropologie.

(Foreground, on island) Denby Heritage Terrace large jug, £35, John Lewis. Natural linen green checked tea towel, £12.50; Epicure large taupe bowl, £42, both The French House. Similar CE 261 glass ceramic cooktop, around £1,850, Gaggenau. Alno Art Pro kitchen in Magnolia White, featuring Silestone Unsui worktops. Prices start from £20,000, Alno

(Background to foreground) Denby halo jug, £31.87; New England soft round wooden tray, £35, both John Lewis. Galets grey bowls, £3 each, Habitat. Restoration teapot, £30; Restoration cup and saucer, £8; Croft collection dessert spoon in Lake Blue, £3.50, all John Lewis. Lux white sugar bowl, £7, Habitat. Brand stools, £834 each, Tonon





(Background) Bank of appliances, from around £2,000, Gaggenau. Galets teacup, £3.50, Habitat. (On island, clockwise from left) New England oval wooden tray, £30, John Lewis. Vintage glass jug, £18, The French House. Spice cellar, £10, Anthropologie. Perigord water glasses, £5.50 each; Terracotta cocotte oven dish in Mint Green, £42, both The French House. Similar CE 261 glass ceramic cooktop, around £1,850, Gaggenau. Green round vase, £19.95, The French House. Milly pepper mill, £35, Habitat. Epicure pasta bowls, £12 each, The French House. Croft collection ceramic cutlery in Lake Blue, £3.50 each, John Lewis. Linea Canterbury black napkins, £7 each, House of Fraser. Alno Inox kitchen in CNS Gold, featuring thick top Silestone Mediterranean and thin top Silestone Cemento worktops. From £28,000, Alno

(Left to right) Lot two-hole mixer tap, £1,040; Lot hot water tap, £1,130, both Dornbracht. Restoration butter dish, £14, John Lewis. Iittala Aalto oak serving platter, £45, Amara. White Italian bistro pitcher, £35, The White Company. Linea glass bottle with black ceramic lid, £6; Linea two-tier fruit stand, £18; Canterbury stone napkins, £7 each; Butcher stripe tea towel, £14 for set of three, all House of Fraser. Raymond Blanc From My Garden white platter, £20; Iittala Teema salad plates in Celadon Green, £13 each, both Amara

Shot on location at Halcyon Interiors Ltd, the ALNO Store, 120 Wigmore St, London, W1U 3LS. halcyoninteriors.com

FOR STOCKISTS, SEE PAGE 150



A portrait of Patricia Urquiola, a woman with blonde hair, looking slightly to the right. She is wearing a dark blue shawl over a patterned top. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

PRODUCT DESIGNER PROFILE

Patricia URQUIOLA

Best known for her work with luxury furniture company Moroso, this Spanish-born architect and designer talks to us about her venture into kitchens

FEATURE EMMA FOALE

How would you say your childhood in Spain has influenced your designs?

Well it is part of my DNA. Asturias, where I grew up on the Atlantic coast, is part of what's known as 'Green Spain', and is not the most predictable. It looks almost like Ireland, with strong ocean, cliffs, lots of green and lots of rain, and it also has a significant cultural imprint. It's one of the main attractions for opera in Spain and the site of one of the most important cultural awards, Premios Príncipe de Asturias.

How did your collaboration with innovative kitchen and bathroom brand Boffi come about? I've known the brand Boffi for a long time as I teamed up with them when working with architect and designer Piero Lissoni. It is a special moment because they are introducing my project in the year of their 80th anniversary. It's a company with a great past as well as big ambition for the future, principally in research and in how to represent product and company identity.

Where did you find inspiration for the Salinas kitchen? I wanted to recapture my family beach house in Asturias. The kitchen faced sand dunes and the ocean, and I have warm memories of preparing food, with family coming and going.

Salinas is based on an idea of a 'hidden machine.' Can you explain? The kitchen is a technical piece that needs to work at its best, but still look beautiful. We created an integrated gutter-shaped, bespoke and multi-functional element which is used for water, drainage, electricity, gas, light or extraction. It can also work as a functional container for utensils and accessories or even a herb garden that you can water directly.

©Max Zambelli

How do you feel this kitchen fits into our modern day homes? A kitchen is the epicentre of the house and where we spend most of our quality time at home with family and friends. The nice thing about the Salinas kitchen is that it works well no matter what space you have – whether you have a sizable room to work with, or just a wall or a small room.

How is this modular design different to others we've seen before? This kitchen is unique in the way that it's very linear on the one side, with a metal frame and strong lines, but also very warm on the material selection. It's like an open canvas, where combinations are infinite. Interesting materials we work with include lava and cement, technical ceramics, pressed paper, glass, terracotta, copper, brass, zinc, steel and wood.

We really like the chopping board table. Can you describe this idea? The chopping board table is a flexible, extending piece that can be used as a work surface or a dining table. It can be pulled out so more people can sit around it on stools or it can be put away, to save space.

What is your house in Milan like? It is like a shophouse with my studio on the ground floor and the house above. It used to be a textile warehouse built in 1910 inside a Milanese courtyard.

It is not a formal house, but it is very practical as it's close to where I work and close to my family, with a terrace for my plants. A lot of prototypes come and go, and sometimes break. It is not a voyeuristic exercise, but a good test to see how the products do in real life.

Can you describe your kitchen at home? Well it's a Boffi. It is basically a central island with three wall configurations. It's quite severe, in dark grey, with the prototypes of my Azulej coloured, glazed porcelain wall tiles that I designed for Italian company Mutina and with grey large format tiles on the floor. There are also stools that we use for breakfast or a quick bite.

Do you have any plans to design more kitchens in the future? First of all the work on Salinas for Boffi is not finished. It's an open system on which we can still do a lot more research. I would also like to do further experiments, not just formal research, but working with the intelligence of things. I'm also working on some kitchen appliances and accessories. Plus, I use kitchens in my architectural projects both for residential and hospitality. I find that every time I work with a chef I learn more about their ways of working. I enjoy their food and get a little bit fatter but happier at the same time. *EKBB*

TOP This modular sofa system is called (Love me) Tender and it's covered in jersey material. It has an aluminium frame and thin wooden legs. Available from Italian brand Moroso, it's priced on application

MIDDLE Shimmer is a robust, iridescent glass table designed by Patricia for Glas Italia for their 2014 collection. It interacts beautifully with light, creating prismatic effects. From around £970

BELOW The Mathilda series of stackable chairs (left), from £620 each, with solid wood legs. The Mafalda chair (right), from £1,300, is made from beech wood with a modern touch using a soft, recycled material for the seat. Available from Moroso



© Alessandro Paderni / Studi EYE / title: Love me tender



© Glas Italia / title: Shimmer

'The kitchen is a technical piece that needs to work at its best, but still look beautiful'

The Salinas kitchen, designed for Boffi, is one that Patricia describes as 'A comfort zone that unites visual, tactility, taste and enjoyment.' It's a flexible, modular system which comes in two heights – floor-mounted or suspended. It costs from £36,000



© BOFFI / Salinas kitchen



© Alessandro Paderni / Studi EYE / title: Mathilda chair (above) and Mafalda chair (right)

Patricia Urquiola

Growing up, Patricia was inspired by her family, particularly her mother who studied philosophy, her aunt who was a painter and other family members who were architects. From her father's Basque origins, she has acquired what she explains as a 'hard-working ethic, determination and feistiness.' She completed her studies in Milan and has continued her professional career there. She has described herself as a 'Milanese Spaniard.'

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UP&DOWN TECHNOLOGY



SkyLift from Faber is a completely new concept. A sleek, contemporary ceiling hood which descends towards the hob only when needed. Possessing the super- efficient filtering power of HFH technology combined with perimeter aspiration and the low energy consumption of its LED lights. **It's unique. It's Faber.**



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Technology



CUTTING-EDGE EXTRACTION

***A distinctive shape
gives this design-led
cooker hood its unique
and practical appeal***

This Y-shaped Yin cooker hood from Italian brand Elica features double extraction through the two chimneys. It's available from October and priced at £4,300

NEWS • PRO CHEF • BUILT-IN MICROWAVES • SOUND SYSTEMS

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR HOME WITH THE LATEST INNOVATIONS

COMPILED BY LUCY MACDONALD AND HAYLEY STEED

TURN UP THE VOLUME

Listen to your music in style with the new Fastnet speakers from fashion brand Ted Baker. These speakers allow you to stream music completely wirelessly through any digital device that has Bluetooth capabilities. Made from brushed aluminium with a leather exterior, they have a folding portable design which also acts as a handy stand. Priced at around £200. johnlewis.com.



OH SO QUIET

Treat yourself to Caple's multi award-winning DD910WH downdraft hood in white. It fits seamlessly into your worktop and is fully equipped with stylish touch controls, four speeds and six motor options, plus an auto timer which ensures your extraction continues for up to ten minutes after you've finished cooking. Priced at £2,100. caple.co.uk.



PERFECTLY CHILLED

Brand new from the Beko brand is a range of EcoSmart American-style fridge-freezers. The hero product from the collection is the ASN541 (*shown*) which is said to have the largest capacity for a non-plumbed and ice model in the UK. It also features NeoFrost technology and a touchscreen LED display, which lets you control all aspects of the fridge and freezer. To celebrate the launch, Beko is offering customers who purchase one of the new fridge-freezers up to £100 cashback before 20th August. Priced at £999. beko.co.uk.

ONE-TOUCH WONDER

Rival even the finest baristas with the new one-touch EA850B cappuccino system from KRUPS. This bean-to-cup coffee machine is sleek and effortlessly stylish with a full-colour touchscreen and professional quality grinder. Its system is designed to produce frothy and tasty espressos, lattes and cappuccinos with just one touch. It's simple to use and even easier to maintain, with an automatic cleaning programme and a cappuccino accessory that can be quickly disassembled. Priced at £849.99. krups.co.uk.



HEATING UP

This R-922STM model is one of three new Streamline microwaves being launched by Sharp. This combination model features ergonomic control panels for ease of use and it incorporates a 1000W microwave, 1100W grill and versatile 150°C–250°C convection oven. It has a 32-litre capacity which is ideal for larger dishes. There's 10 auto-menu options adding ease and speed to your meals, including options for chicken and fish. Priced around £200. sharp.co.uk.



SMART TOOLS

You'll never have to return to a cold house again with the new Wave Smart Thermostat. Available from September, this Wave Smart Control combines a room thermostat and programmable control in one sleek black glass unit. You can handily manage your heating and hot water via wireless with a free app on your smart phone, tablet or even smart TV so you can control it remotely. Priced around £250. worcester-bosch.co.uk.



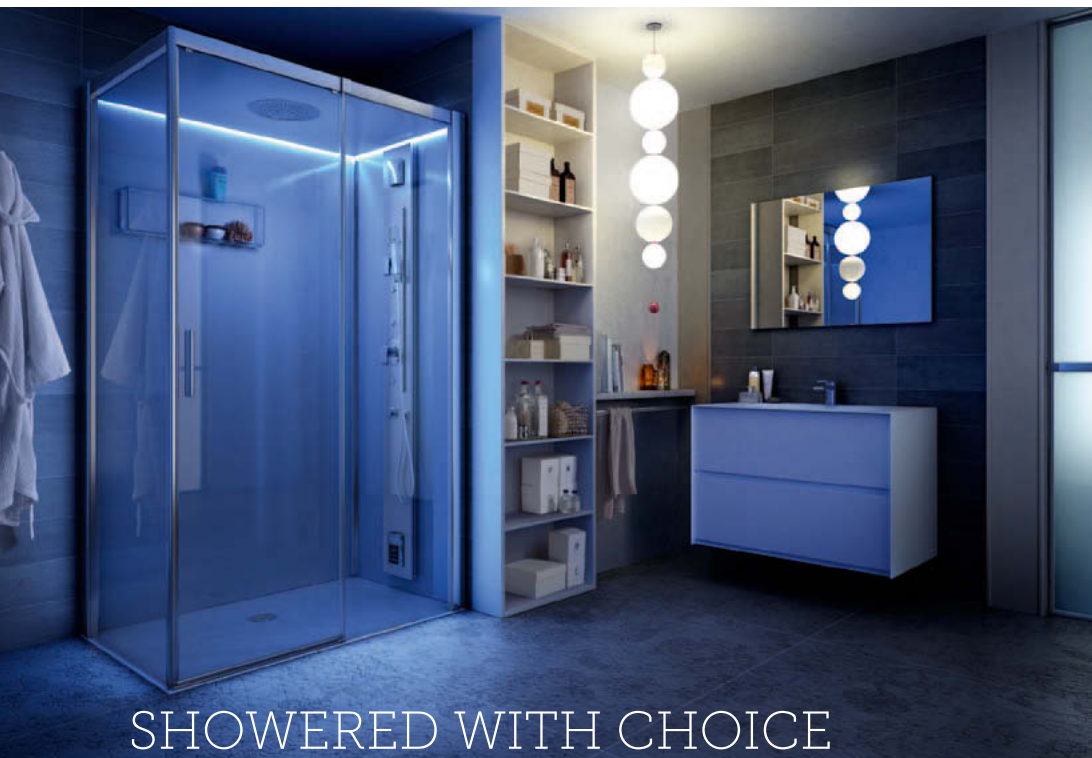
TAKE A LOAD OFF

The latest launch from Zanussi aims to make laundry more efficient and easier than ever. In one go it can take on 50 men's shirts or 13 towels, so even the biggest loads become effortless. The AutoSense function is a useful highlight, featuring sensors which can calculate the weight of the load and cleverly adjust the time, water and energy usage to one of four settings. There's also a QuickWash option which reduces the washing time by up to 50%. Priced at £479. zanussi.co.uk



SHOWEROED WITH CHOICE

Create a calm, warm atmosphere in your bathroom with Teuco's new generation, multi-functional steam 'pod' shower, Reloaded. It's packed with exciting features including an aromatherapy dispenser, Bluetooth audio, body jets, hand-held shower, water-softener and fan. It offers a relaxing experience with perimeter mood lighting in the roof, and you're spoilt for choice with shower pressure as the central shower head offers Rain and Soft Rain water patterns to soothe you. Teuco also offer the option of pivot or sliding doors and the shower tray can be installed above ground or in a wet room style to best suit your needs. It's £6,960. teuco.com.



MY FAVOURITE KITCHEN APPLIANCE

John GREGORY-SMITH

Entrepreneur and cookery book author John Gregory-Smith reveals how his love for spicy food led him to start his own business, and why the Cuisinart spice grinder is his number one appliance

We've heard that you are a master when it comes to spices. How did your journey into cooking and recipe book writing begin?

From a young age I was mega greedy and loved eating spicy food. My family were brought up all over the world, so our meals have always been very international. I've always loved how a few spices could completely change a meal, and the more I've cooked with them, the more I've learned. Through my work as a chef and travel writer I've journeyed across many different countries and cultures and I'm always inspired by the combinations of spices that I've tested on my travels.

How would you describe your relationship with food and ingredients? I love food for the pleasure, for the social elements and health – eating a good meal makes you feel great and ready to rock. I really enjoy spicy, fresh food that is really quick and easy to make. I'm into food that makes me feel good, so lots of different vegetables, herbs and, of course, spices. And let's not forget chocolate! A good chocolate brownie is heaven – but everything in moderation, that's what I say!

What are your favourite appliances to use in the kitchen? My Cuisinart Spice grinder and my Kenwood blender.

What are the features you like most about your Cuisinart grinder?

It comes with two removable bowls, so you can do dry spices and a wet mix at the same time. They also have lids, so if you make a delicious green curry paste you can pop any leftovers into the fridge.

How does it help you when preparing food in the kitchen? I love doing lots

of things at the same time and it allows me to be much quicker in the kitchen.

What do you use it for the most? Making dry spice blends and wet pastes. I am really into Turkish food at the moment, so I find the spice grinder is really perfect for whizzing up garlic, chillies and pistachios to go into juicy adana kebabs.

Do you have a favourite recipe from your new book? I'm really proud of the meal solutions in the 'Something Spectacular' and 'Nice and Easy' chapters in the book. These are complete meals, mains, sides and salads, that look and taste unbelievable, and all ready in under 45 minutes! The Beef Meze is pretty special.

Do you prefer freestanding or fitted kitchens? I like a fitted kitchen with an island so everyone can join in.

How would you describe your dream kitchen? Nigella Lawson's kitchen – she can be there too, she's a rock star!

What exciting things do you have planned for the next year? This year I'm working hard on my online project, eatravellive.com. We are the destination for people who love food, travel and their home. I have developed lots of cool recipes and we have some awesome chefs on there. I'm developing and shooting lots of new recipes now and we're also launching a YouTube channel and a pop-up restaurant later this year, so that's exciting. I am working on a new Indian street food restaurant called Street Chaat with a great team. It opens this summer and we have some incredible food! **CKBB**

GLOBETROTTER

John's recipes have been inspired by his travels, which have taken him all over. Turkey, Korea and Morocco feature particularly strongly

TURKISH DELIGHT

One of the recipes in 'Mighty Spice Express' is this Blue Mosque Goat's Cheese Tart with chilli and walnuts, a twist on the classic Turkish snack Borek, pictured bottom middle

HOT, HOT, HOT

If you fancy a dish with big spices then this Mr Wong's Hunan Lamb is packed full of flavour, with dried chillies, Sichuan pepper, ginger and spring onions

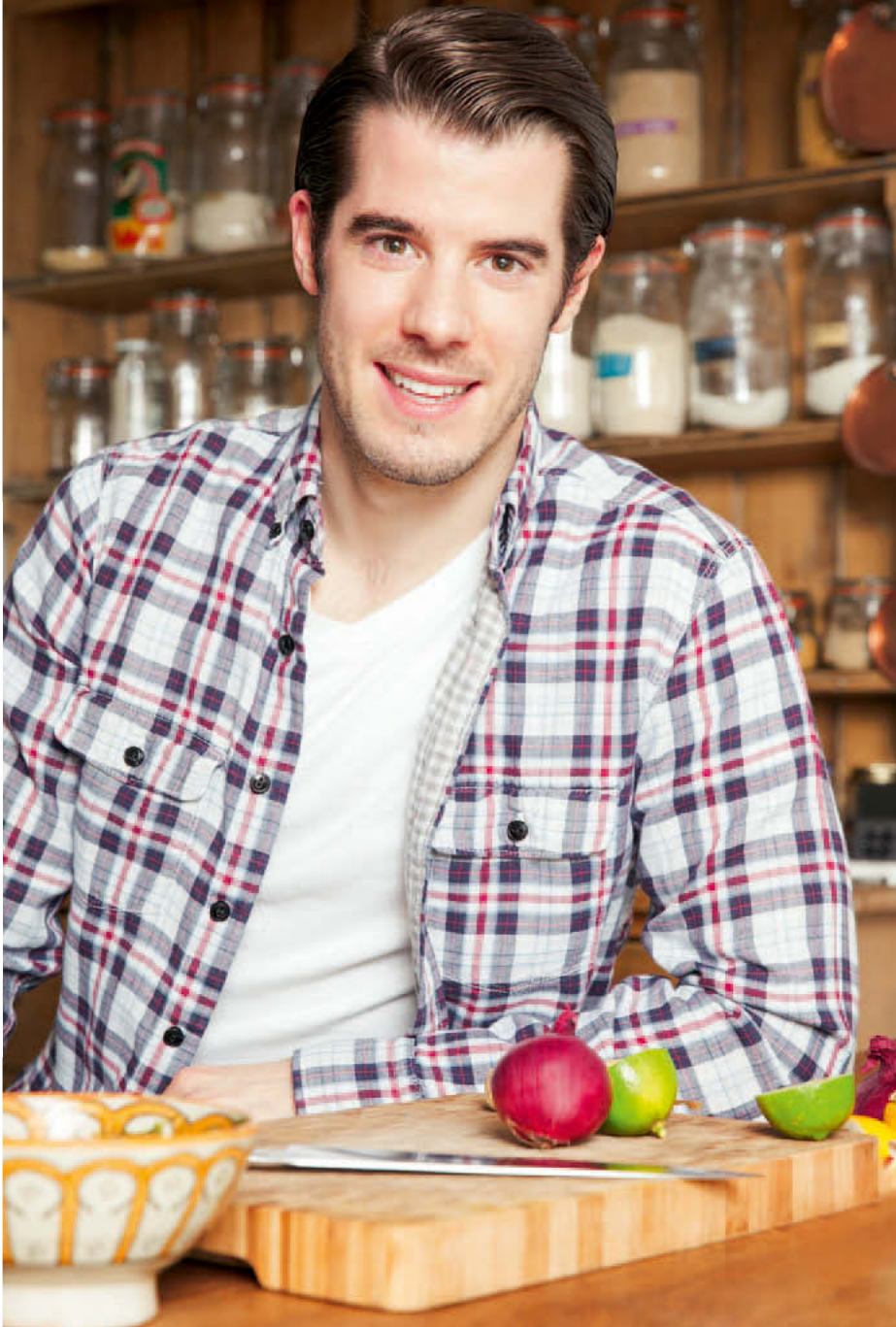
GETTING SPICY

John uses the Cuisinart Spice and Nut grinder, which has a powerful motor and sharp blades to grind even the toughest nuts and spices. You just need to simply press the lid to activate. Priced at £50



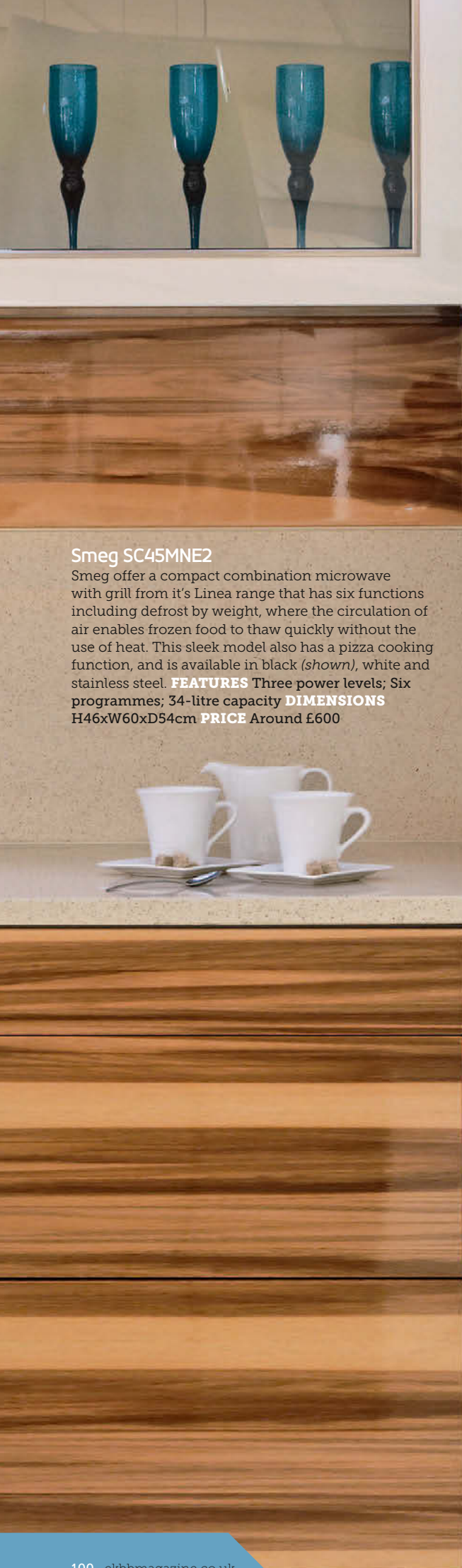
John Gregory-Smith

In 2006 John Gregory-Smith left his office job to launch The Mighty Spice Company, and his range of fresh spice pastes were soon stocked in the likes of Fortnum & Mason. He was keen to pursue travel writing and journeyed through South East Asia, Sri Lanka, India and Mexico to learn more about spices and street food. John has published two books, 'The Mighty Spice Cookbook' and 'Mighty Spice Express' to show how easy it is to cook using spices at home.



'I loved how a few spices could completely change a meal, and the more I cooked with them, the more I loved them'





Smeg SC45MNE2

Smeg offer a compact combination microwave with grill from it's Linea range that has six functions including defrost by weight, where the circulation of air enables frozen food to thaw quickly without the use of heat. This sleek model also has a pizza cooking function, and is available in black (*shown*), white and stainless steel. **FEATURES** Three power levels; Six programmes; 34-litre capacity **DIMENSIONS** H46xW60xD54cm **PRICE** Around £600



TURNING UP THE HEAT

EXPERIENCE THE NEW WAVE OF
COMBINATION BUILT-IN MICROWAVE
TECHNOLOGY TO MAKE COOKING EASIER

FEATURE LUCY MACDONALD



Wolf ICBMW30-240

Enjoy having the option of roasting a small chicken or baking a cake with this top-of-the-line 40-litre microwave complete with oven and grill, which can all be used separately. Choose from five auto cook menus, four auto cook from frozen menus and seven auto cook defrost menus, as well as 10 temperature settings to ensure that your food is cooked to your requirements every single time. **FEATURES** Five power levels; Five programmes; Energy save mode; 40-litre capacity **DIMENSIONS** H76xW46xD54cm **PRICE** £1,764

One are the days when microwaves were just used to heat up a quick meal, because now the latest built-in models on the market can be used to cook, defrost, grill, roast and even steam. Depending on your lifestyle and requirements you can use one of these multi-functional models to complement a main oven in a sleek bank of appliances in your kitchen area.

Or if space is limited you can take advantage of the advanced functionality now available and use it as a one-stop-shop for your cooking needs, if you wish.

Combination models have increased in popularity as they can offer the traditional cooking functions using conventional heat alongside the microwave, which according to Smeg's Product Development Manager Joan Fraser, means you can have the speed of cooking with a microwave, but with all the results of cooking with a conventional oven. 'For example, using a combination of microwave and grill you

can now cook a whole chicken in about 30 minutes,' he says 'This is because you can now brown and crisp food and cook everyday meals in a fraction of the time, and without compromising on taste.'

The most up-to-date technology means that built-in microwaves are packed with functions that make cooking for the family or entertaining with friends even easier. Danny Lay, Sales Director for Caple, says that, 'Auto cook menus are increasing in demand as they enable you to choose different types of food for cooking - you can select the food type, weight and power in order to achieve superb cooking results every time. Pre-set cooking recipes are in demand as these can be customised, and a keep warm function is ideal to keep food tasting as fresh as it was when cooked until it's ready to serve.'

If you're looking to invest in a built-in model then be sure to consider what its purpose would be, how often it would be used and what functions would be the most helpful to you for your cooking. **EKBB**



AEG KM8403001M

This combination microwave and oven takes the hard work out of cooking. It features an impressive 18 different programmes, and with the autoweight function all you need to do is enter the weight of the food and it will automatically cook or defrost accordingly.

FEATURES Five power levels; 18 programmes; ProSight touch controls; LCD display; 38-litre capacity **DIMENSIONS** H46xW59xD54cm **PRICE** £689



Gorenje Ora Ito BM 6250 ORA-X

Save time and make cooking a complete meal even easier with this built-in touch-control microwave, oven and grill from Gorenje. It boasts a SuperSize baking area and Easy Cook function, as well as an LED display.

FEATURES Five power levels; Six programmes; Electronic control; Easy cook function; Auto defrost; 23-litre capacity **DIMENSIONS** H39xW59xD41cm **PRICE** £260



Siemens HB84E562B

Siemens offers great functionality with its HB84E562B built-in combination microwave and oven. It contains the brand's Innovave technology, which is said to cook more efficiently and potentially save up to 15% more energy over traditional microwave technology. **FEATURES** Five power levels; 15 programmes; Hot Air; Pre-set automatic cooking; 36-litre capacity **DIMENSIONS** H45xW60xD56cm **PRICE** £686



De Dietrich DME1145X

This versatile combination microwave, grill and oven from De Dietrich offers two levels for reheating food or cooking two dishes at the same time, delivering the speed of a microwave with the quality of fan cooking. Functions for this sleek stainless steel and black glass model include fan cooking, turbo grill, speed defrost and microwave. **FEATURES** 10 programmes; 11 pre-programmed recipes; Seven defrost options; Digital touch controls; 40-litre capacity **DIMENSIONS** H45xW56xD55cm **PRICE** £950



Neff C57M70N3GB

Offering user-friendly electronic controls, this combination microwave and oven has 15 programmes – four for defrosting and 11 combination settings, giving you more versatility in your cooking. **FEATURES** Five power levels; 15 programmes; Electronic control; Memory function; 36-litre capacity **DIMENSIONS** H45xW60xD56cm **PRICE** Around £628



CDA VM450

This budget-friendly option from CDA has combination microwave, grill and oven functions that can either be used together or individually, depending on your needs. It has touch controls for easy use and functions including Quick Start. **FEATURES** Five power levels; 10 programmes; Auto defrost; Auto cook; LED timer and clock; Safety key lock; 25-litre capacity **DIMENSIONS** H59xW45xD39cm **PRICE** £250



Whirlpool AMW 848 IX

This offering from Whirlpool has the ability to microwave, cook, grill and even steam. Using the brand's 6th Sense® technology, this model can sense the humidity levels throughout cooking, and automatically manages the power and cooking time. **FEATURES** Eight power levels; Seven programmes; Automatic recipe programmes; iXelium Nanotechnology exterior; 40-litre capacity **DIMENSIONS** H46xW60xD56cm **PRICE** £649



Hotpoint MWX 434 X S

This sleek stainless steel microwave from the Hotpoint brand offers you a range of functions to make cooking a variety of different foods easier, such as a Pasta and Pizza function, and one specifically for Fast Cooking. It also has an appealing 40-litre capacity which is ideal for cooking larger dishes. **FEATURES** 10 power levels; Five programmes; Pasta function; Fast Cooking feature; 40-litre capacity **DIMENSIONS** H45xW59xD55cm **PRICE** Around £899



KitchenAid KMPC 3610

Cook food just as you like it with KitchenAid's sensor cooking technology. Select food type on the menu and the smart sensors will automatically adjust the duration and power according to the humidity and temperature of the dish. It also has Inverter technology which delivers even cooking. **FEATURES** Six programmes; Sensor cooking technology; ProSteam; Crisp function; Jet defrost; 40-litre capacity **DIMENSIONS** H46xW60xD57cm **PRICE** £1,094



Miele H6100BM

If you're looking for a model that can handle larger dishes then this one from Miele is definitely one to consider, as it features a good 43-litre capacity. This combination oven and microwave offers a range of functions including Quick Microwave, which is ideal if you are in a rush, and Popcorn, which gives you fresh popcorn at the touch of a button. **FEATURES** Seven power levels; Six programmes; Quick Microwave function; Popcorn function; 43-litre capacity

DIMENSIONS H45xW56-57xD55cm **PRICE** £1,649

Montana Living Sound Unit

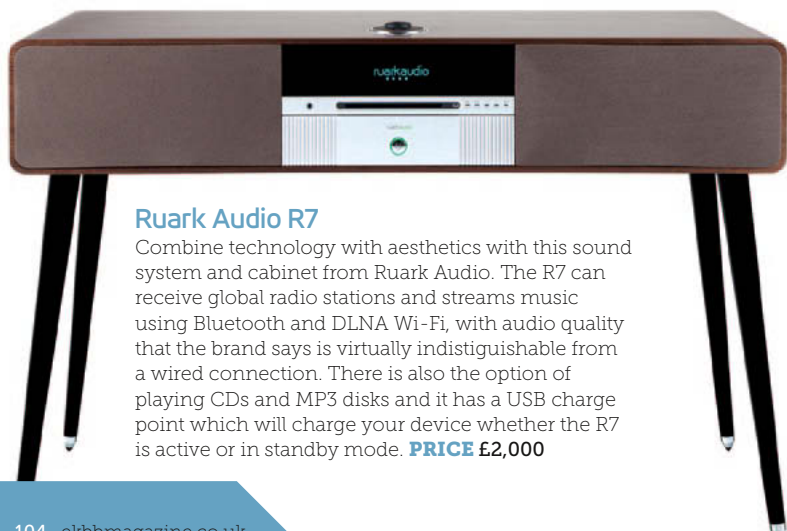
This Sound Unit from Montana Living is an amplifier and radio with integrated AirPlay and DLNA (Digital Living Network Alliance) which allows you to stream your music playlist completely wirelessly from either your smartphone, tablet or computer. Enjoy a film with the full sound experience through the integrated speakers by connecting your TV to the HDMI hub, and it can be operated via a remote control and app for the iPhone. Pictured with the Montana shelving unit, which can be made bespoke to the exact size and colour that best suits your room. **PRICE £847**



SMOOTH TUNES

ENJOY COMPLETE FLEXIBILITY AND APPRECIATE YOUR FAVOURITE MUSIC IN STYLE WITH THE LATEST WIRELESS SOUND SYSTEM TECHNOLOGY

FEATURE **LUCY MACDONALD**



Ruark Audio R7

Combine technology with aesthetics with this sound system and cabinet from Ruark Audio. The R7 can receive global radio stations and streams music using Bluetooth and DLNA Wi-Fi, with audio quality that the brand says is virtually indistinguishable from a wired connection. There is also the option of playing CDs and MP3 disks and it has a USB charge point which will charge your device whether the R7 is active or in standby mode. **PRICE £2,000**



Sony SRS-X9

Enhance your listening experience with this wireless speaker and audio system from Sony. If you have an NFC-enabled (Near Field Communication) smartphone or tablet you can simply touch the top of the main unit to start listening to your songs. Music streams wirelessly through the on-board Wi-Fi and Bluetooth. The audio input and up to two USB ports enable you to play directly or connect to a laptop or phone.

PRICE £599

With tablets and smartphones now being part of everyday life, we are used to having access to our music collection while out and about, in the car or even when exercising! But what about when it comes to playing our favourite songs at home? The latest technology means that there are so many different wireless audio and integrated sound system options to bring clean, quality sound into your home.

With Bluetooth you can stream music wirelessly anywhere in the house, whether it be in the kitchen, bedroom or living area. If you're after something simple, take a look at the range of compatible radios, speakers and hi-fi systems available which will allow you to play songs from the device of your choice with ease. Tivoli have a great collection of stylish radios with Bluetooth, or you can find sleek speakers from the likes of Stellé or Sonos. The advantage of having Bluetooth is that you can then use any device, whether it be Apple or Android, so you don't have to be tied to a provider.

If you have an open-plan kitchen and living space or would like to have a more complex sound system in your home then there is also the option of installing an integrated system. Desirée Webster, Marketing Communications Manager at NuVo says, 'Systems typically begin with a connection to a wireless network through the home's router, and then uses individual amplifiers in the specific rooms throughout a home, that are connected to the requisite speakers. This modular approach makes the systems customisable, and they are often easily and quickly set up. The ease and inherent flexibility of wireless systems make them an appealing choice, especially in older homes without pre-run cabling.' A quality music system can really add to your home, and Paul Cummin, Managing Director at Artcoustic UK, advises getting an expert on board. 'There are many options, but the most popular will have a Network Attached Storage hard drive with all the music content. The installer will take care of any amplification, speakers, cables and IP setup, leaving you to just enjoy the system.' **EKBB**



Tivoli Audio Music System Two+

Get an all-in-one music system with this model from Tivoli Audio. It features Bluetooth wireless technology and a digital and analogue FM radio so that you can stream your best-loved music and tune in to a variety of radio stations at your own convenience. It also has an auto-set digital clock with battery back-up, alarms and full-function remote control. **PRICE £499**

Sonos PLAY:1

This smart wireless speaker from Sonos lets you stream music in Hi-Fi sound from the likes of Spotify and Rdio, listen to your own library of music on your computer, smartphone or tablet, and tune in to more than 100,000 free internet radio stations and podcasts around the world. Take control of what you want to listen to with the free Sonos Controller app, available on tablet, mobile and desktop. The Play:1 can also connect to other Sonos products, so you can listen to music wirelessly in any room of the house **PRICE £169**



Bang & Olufsen A9

This unique and versatile music system from Bang & Olufsen can be hung on the wall (shown) or displayed as a freestanding piece with legs. The A9 can stream music through AirPlay or DLNA and has a built-in Spotify Connect for a seamless playback experience. It features a USB iPod/iPad/iPhone connector, which charges your devices at the same time. **PRICE £1,699**



Stellé Audio Pillar

The discreet, stylish and portable Bluetooth wireless speaker from Stellé is perfect for any kitchen or living space. The Pillar will connect to any Bluetooth-enabled device in a 50ft range, and it features a built-in microphone to enable speakerphone, as well as a rechargeable battery that can provide 15 hours worth of continuous playback. **PRICE £249**



Eau...yes!



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Bathrooms

SCULPTED DETAIL

Mix white Carrara marble with warm, oak cabinetry and simple chrome wall-mounted taps for added opulence

Furniture from the Neos collection by Luca Martorano, from £2,800; Sinks from the Duo collection by Matteo Thun, from £1,800 each, both Neutra Design



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Bathroom News

The latest launches and our favourite bathing beauties

WRITTEN BY KIRSTEN JONES



Easy ROLLING

Enjoy a chic, private bathing experience with the new Fabric Changer from Bloc Blinds. Its clever design allows you to change the blinds whenever you wish by simply unhooking the fabric and clipping in a new blind. There's no clutter with replacements and your blinds can be adapted to your changing tastes. From £41. blocblinds.co.uk.



WEST END SHOWCASE

Just opened on Westbourne Park Road in London's Notting Hill is the new West One Bathrooms showroom. Solely featuring Italian manufacturer Agape, which is renowned for its minimal and design-led style, both architects and homeowners alike will be impressed with the space. It's notably the most contemporary of their eight showrooms based throughout London and South East England. westonebathrooms.com.

Making a stand

Waterworks has embraced the trend of architectural-inspired style with their new Formwork pieces. 60 unique designs complete the modern collection, using geometric shapes and sculpture to achieve simple elegance. This single washstand is in polished stainless steel and has a white glass counter sink. It's £9,527. uk.waterworks.com.



Go for understated Italian design and furnish your bathing space with the new Triad collection from Planit Bathrooms. Three Corian® basins in round, oval and square shapes make up the collection, and each design has a minimalist style and is created to highlight the purely natural form of washbasins. Priced from around £780, the Triad designs show off the beauty and adaptability of Solid Surface by Corian®. planit.it/en.

OUT OF THIS WORLD





HOT STUFF

To celebrate 35 years of making eye-catching radiators, Bisque has introduced a Coral finish into its collection, available for colour matching for the Classic, Archibald, Blok and Arteplano models. Having collaborated with high profile designers and new talent over the years, there's a great selection of stylishly designed radiators. The above models in Coral are priced from £399. bisque.co.uk.



Switched on

Designed by Nespoli and Novara for Zucchetti, the ON collection of single lever mixers combines smooth and slender shapes. Highlighting Zucchetti's 85 years of design experience, the collection offers sleek curves and cylindrical bodies with rectangular section spouts. Available in chrome and brushed nickel, the ON basin mixer with PUW (shown) is from £196. zucchettikos.com.

REACHING OUT

For the bath and book lovers among us, Alternative Bathrooms has revealed the space-saving and subtle KellyBook bath. This custom-made design is available freestanding or semi-recessed with inset shelving for easy access your favourite novels, towels or lotions. Made from bright white Mak composite, the bath has a gloss or matt finish option, while a range of wood and coloured lacquer finishes are offered for the shelves. From £7,585. alternativebathrooms.com.



Splash out SHOWERING

Enjoy the ease of a spacious, splash-free shower with Matki's boutique walk-in corner enclosure. Its hinged panel creates a spacious shower cubicle or drying area with one simple movement, while preventing any water splashing onto the floor outside. Available with optional brassware, it's from £2,346. matki.co.uk.

Style statement

Create an impressive centrepiece with the unique Onyx basin. One of many semi-precious material objects created by Lapidica, this crystalline stone basin is hand-carved, creating completely unique shapes and sizes, perfect for vanity tops. Prices are between £594 and £3,594. lapidica.com.



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Combine & Contrast

Experiment with both rich and natural colour palettes to complete the ideal bathing scheme to suit your personal style

PICTURES MALCOLM MENZIES | STYLING ANNA MORLEY | STYLING ASSISTANT KIRSTEN JONES



(Foreground to background) Chrome bath **rack**, £99, Heritage Bathrooms. Air waffle white **face cloth**, £12.50, The Conran Shop. Vence olive wood **soap dish**, £12, Urbanara. Como white face **cloth**, £18, Balineum. Safety **razor**, £25; Marseille natural **soap**, £4.50, both Labour and Wait. Wooden bath **brush**, £19.75, SCP. Stitch white porcelain **vase**, £16, Habitat. Check chunky weave **throw** in ivory and grey, £69, Rockett St George. Similar Arne Jacobsen Egg **chair** in Cream Divina natural leather, from £4,994, Aram Store

(Clockwise from left) Harrison linen **face cloth**, £12, Balineum. Bath **brush**, £19.75, SCP. Bon bon jar **vase**, £19.50, Marks & Spencer. White-dipped terracotta **jug**, £12.95, Holly's House. Bamboo **toothbrushes**, £12 for a set of four, Rockett St George. Grey sand **hourglass**, £19, Rockett St George. Standard Ware **vase**, £75, SCP. Granite glass bathroom **container**, £45; Wooden cotton **buds**, £3.50, both Balineum. Similar **tap**, Atrio Classic, around £495, Grohe. Shaving **brush**, £34.75, SCP. Croft Collection Skye accessories white **tray**, £15, John Lewis. Air waffle face **cloth**, £12.50, The Conran Shop. Marvis **toothpaste**, £6.95, Balineum. Kotra oatmeal and black waffle **hand towel**, £6, Urbanara. Similar Giro **washbasin**, £262, C.P. Hart

(Clockwise from top) Bamboo pendant light, £165, Bodie and Fou. Similar heated towel rail, £627, Hudson Reed. Mahdia Hammam black and off-white towel, £25, Urbanara. Air waffle grey and white hand towels, £35 each, The Conran Shop. Engraved tall vase, £29.50, Marks & Spencer. Bamboo Twist sake decanter, £14.95, Reiko Kaneko. Vence olive wood soap dish, £12, Urbanara. Air waffle white face cloth, £12.50, The Conran Shop. House Doctor Pure Nature wooden stool, £115, Bodie and Fou. Teak bath mat, £85, Balineum. Terracotta glazed pitcher, £56, SCP. Natural sea sponge, £18.50, John Lewis. Small rattan storage basket, £25, Habitat. Air waffle bath towel, £59, The Conran Shop. Kotra oatmeal and black waffle hand towel, £11, Urbanara. Como white hand towel £29, Balineum. Kotra oatmeal waffle small hand towel, £6, Urbanara. Iris body brush, £18.65, Balineum. Similar Imperium freestanding roll top bath, from £1,943, The Albion Bath Company



(On window ledge) Tall pillar **candle holder**, £29.50, Marks & Spencer. Blue hyacinth bulb **vase**, £9.95, Nkuku. Cobalt dining **candle**, £2.75, The Conran Shop. Croft Collection blue glass **vase**, £5, John Lewis. Turquoise blue **tumbler**, £25 for a set of four, Bodie and Fou. Cut glass blue circles **tumbler**, £9.50, SCP. Bleu De Four **tray**, £29; Dip-dye indigo **napkin**, £18, both The Conran Shop. Esterban recycled glass **vase**, £8, Habitat

(On shelf) Turquoise blue **tumbler**, £25 for a set of four, Bodie and Fou. White-dipped glass **vase**, £28, Holly's House. Blue Artic ceramic mini **jug**, £12, Reiko Kaneko. (On side of bathtub) Sous Le Figuier hand and body **lotion**, £12, Urbanara. Lisa Firer white and blue splatter textured **vase**, £70, The Conran Shop. For similar wall-mounted **taps** try Hansgrohe

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(Clockwise from top left) Avesta dark blue and white stoneware plant **pot**, £25, Urbanara. Air waffle white **hand towel**, £35, The Conran Shop. Wire braided shallow **bowl**, £42, Holly's House. Mediterranean **tumbler**, £11.50, Reiko Kaneko. Blue striped toothbrush **holder**, £7.50, Marks & Spencer. Bamboo guest **toothbrush**, £12 for a set of four, Rockett St George. Marvis Aquatic mint **toothpaste**, £5.50, Balineum. Bleu De Four **tray**, £29, The Conran Shop. Marble soap **dish** £10, Marks & Spencer. (Background) Trene blue patterned **curtains**, £60 for a pair, Habitat



(Background to foreground) Normann Copenhagen Agnes ceramic **vases**, £65 each, Bodie and Fou. Plum & Ashby tea and passion fruit scented **candle**, £24, Rockett St George. Como black-edged face **towel**, £18, Balineum. Emma Lacey Thérière Everyday Blanche **teapot**, £85, The Conran Shop. Marbled **cup**, £26, Holly's House. Noir rectangular black ceramic **candle plate**, £10, Habitat



(Clockwise from bottom left) Marbled coaster, £12, Holly's House. 2oz Cassia stone soap, £7, The Conran Shop. Black rope boat bowl, £109, Reiko Kaneko. Como face towel, £18, Balineum. Tile print vase, £19.50, Marks & Spencer. Harlequin large black and white chevrons tea light holder, £12.95, Rockett St George. L:A Bruket mint bath salt, £23, The Conran Shop. Eight & Bob aftershave lotion, £45; Eight & Bob eau de toilette refills, £85 for a set of three, both The Conran Shop

*Shot on location at The Maison Talbooth,
Stratford Rd, Dedham, Essex, CO7 6HN. milsomhotels.com*

FOR STOCKISTS, SEE PAGE 150



EPHC1200 x 900 Corner Door.



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New Matki EauZone Plus has been created to show off the beauty of solid 10mm safety glass with the minimum of framing and seals, with a vast range of design options, the choice is endless. If you want to see the future of modern showering look no further



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HOME HAMMAM

With the Topkapi cabin from West One Bathrooms, you can choose from four sizes and four types of marble, teamed with glass, steel and teak. Evoking the Turkish Hammam experience, the cabin has an ultra-slim panel that contains LEDs, which infuse the space with light, while the state-of-the-art steam system is combined with a generous sized shower head with colour therapy and music system, all operated via a touch control panel. Prices start from £36,240

HIGH-TECH *haven*

A digital, gadget-ready bathroom will create a soothing space for rest and relaxation

FEATURE **HAYLEY GILBERT**



It may sound like something from the future, but the digital age of bathrooms is right here, right now and by embracing and investing in this new technology, you can combine wellness with wow factor in your own bathroom at home. The latest innovations include shower systems with chromotherapy and aromatherapy, remote shower controls and bath fills for versatility, hydromassage systems with bath jets, rainshowers for an invigorating all-over spray, infrared steam cabins for an authentic Turkish bath experience, digital basin mixers for ease of use and even apps that allow you to run a bath from your iPhone or iPad.

This new wave of high-tech kit allows you to recreate a spa-like sanctuary at home. Each innovation comes with its own benefits and the key is to select the products that match your needs. Saunas and infrared cabins for instance will help keep your blood vessels in shape, stimulate circulation and activate your metabolism and immune system, ideal for a weekly detox. Chromotherapy meanwhile is a holistic therapy that restores health by correcting the body's colour imbalances.

Whether your objective is to make your bathroom easier to operate or more of a pleasure to be in, the latest technology



MOBILE TV

TVs are becoming de rigueur in luxury bathrooms – now you can even watch your favourite shows whilst in the shower.

This 7-inch Infiniti waterproof television can be recessed or wall-mounted and costs £360 from Ripples

available can be the perfect solution. 'Technology is becoming an increasingly important part of the bathroom's design as it can play a big role in creating a spa-like haven in which to relax and unwind,' says Sara Johnston, Marketing Communications Manager for Geberit. 'Far from being a gimmick, incorporating technology into the bathroom can really raise the comfort levels and often has a practical as well as aesthetic purpose. Importantly, given our ageing population, much of this technology helps us future-proof our bathrooms.'

Bathroom designs are becoming even more digital by the day, as Mark Booth, Dornbracht's UK Sales and Marketing Director, confirms, 'Digitalisation in the presence of water has opened up entirely new forms of comfort and water experience. Our Smart Tools for example can control water volume and temperature as well as call up pre-programmed settings, similar to that of smartphone technology.'

If your priority is entertainment, a waterproof television that allows you to unwind with your favourite show or soap while you shower or bathe is the ultimate de-stress solution. Or why not choose a bath or mirror with built-in Bluetooth which give you soothing sounds while you soak. **EKBB**



CHIC & SLEEK

Left Say goodbye to cumbersome lever handles with Crosswater's Wisp wall-mounted digital basin mixer. Priced from £589, it offers three memory temperature settings, as well as visual controls and lights that can indicate temperature

LIGHT WORK

Below left Sleek, seamless and easy to use, the Axor Citterio's electronic basin mixer for Hansgrohe is designed for concealed installation with a short spout. It's £924 at Ripples



TOP GLASS

Right PasoDoble from Italian wellbeing specialist Glass, comprises five separate modules that can be used individually or in combination to create a holistic wellbeing experience. Modules include shower, steam, shower and steam, Finnish sauna and the Room, a steam enclosure. Functions include chromotherapy with LED lighting, touch screens, thermostatic mixers with diverters and vertical jets and steam diffusers with removable aroma drawer. From £12,436



Techno trends

ACCORDING TO BATHROOM SPECIALISTS RIPPLES, THESE ARE THE LATEST GADGETS NOW AVAILABLE:

- Shower heads with integrated lighting and showers, baths and steam rooms with chromotherapy and fibre optic lights.
- Electronic shower controls with sleek touch screens.
- Waterproof TVs and audio systems.
- Silent whirlpool baths with slim apertures acting as water jets.
- Infrared operated basin mixers for hygiene and water conservation.

SERENE DREAM

Villeroy & Boch's saunas and infrared cabins are bespoke made and fitted and can be installed anywhere in the home, space permitting. From £7,381, they come with a choice of aromatic fragrances and a soothing lighting system as well as infrared heat to warm the body at a more comfortable pace, ideal for those who prefer a milder heat



ALL-IN-ONE

Self-contained and multi-functional, the Avec collection from Zucchetti.Kos is a shower box range that includes adjustable and revolving jets for hydromassage, Turkish bath with aroma essence dispenser, chromotherapy system, thermostatic taps, central shower head, audio options and a touch screen control. From £14,400

RAINING DOWN

The Spa Series by Aquademy features groundbreaking technology that guarantees high performance even at lower pressures, using less water than other multi-functional shower heads. Choose your water pattern – tropical rain, atomised flow, rainfall or waterblade – and add ChromAromatherapy and sleek Evo touch controls for the ultimate high-tech space. From £2,376, with an extra £2,000 and above for the touch controls



‘The use of electronics in the bathroom is now coming up to speed with electronic use in other areas of the home’



LORNA WAINWRIGHT
MARKETING MANAGER,
ALCHEMY DESIGN
AWARD

What are the latest technological developments in showers?

The use of electronics in the bathroom is now coming up to speed with electronic use in other areas of the home. When used within the shower, they encourage the creation of a total showering/spa environment and it's easier to incorporate wellbeing functions such as chromotherapy, aromatherapy, multi-function body jets for targeting specific areas of the body, as well as music systems for relaxation.

What benefits do these have for the user?

They offer precise, safe and responsive temperature control with important water-saving benefits such as high performance

with low flow. It's also user-friendly. The surge in smartphones and tablets has created an electronics-savvy culture but ease of use is still paramount in many consumers' buying decisions. High design is also an advantage. The use of smart dials and high-resolution control consoles give the impression of luxury, which helps to bring the bathroom environment into the 21st Century.

What does the future hold for bathrooms?

More integrated controls specified as standard in luxury new-build properties, to allow for control of water usage and delivery, and a greater emphasis on water conservation, whether it be through choice or legislation.

Q&A

INDULGE YOURSELF

Stimulate your senses with the F-digital Deluxe from Grohe Spa®, a super-slim and intuitive ambient controller that includes a 'dry zone' for your own combination of lighting, music and steam. There's even a docking station for an iPod so that you can control all the functions using the app. Prices start from £6,000



'The ability to change the light in your bath or shower can help you to feel more relaxed'



SARAH HOLEY
MARKETING MANAGER,
LAUFEN

What advances in technology apply to bathing? Features such as chromotherapy and whirlpool functions make bathing less of a necessary function and more of a therapeutic relaxation for the soul. Some baths even incorporate mist functions, which creates the illusion of lying in an infinity pool, helping you to really detach from the stresses and strains of everyday life.

How can this help with wellbeing? There is much research in to how different coloured light can affect your mood and the ability to change the light in your bath or shower can help you to feel more

relaxed. In fact, most of these functions really equate to creating more of a spa-like ambience in the bathroom – something that is tranquil and calming, which can be the antithesis of modern life.

How has design evolved to keep up with this new technology?

The important thing with designing these products is that they don't look like clunky, techy bits of kit but rather the added functionality is complementary to the design. Otherwise this could jar the aesthetics of the spa-like retreat you are trying to create.

Q&A

SPA-LIKE SANCTUARY

Transform your bathroom into an at-home spa with the Kartell freestanding bathtub from Laufen. Priced from £5,219, it can be fitted with chromotherapy and mist functions for a completely relaxing soak



ARMANI / Roca

A new bathroom concept



Feeling BLUE

Use fresh ocean tones with a mix of accessories in sky and indigo shades and blend them with the smooth curves of a modern bathtub. Opt for glossy wall tiles and a large mirror to reflect and extend the space

COMPILED BY KIRSTEN JONES

- 1 Grey glass mix **mosaic**, £11 per sheet, British Ceramic Tile 2 Sous Le Figuier body, room and linen **spray**, £10, Urbanara 3 Gregg floor **lamp**, around £650, Foscarini 4 Porada Mix 2 **mirror**, £650, Chaplins 5 Taunus bath **mat**, £32, Urbanara 6 KH01 floorstanding bath shower **mixer and hand shower set**, £1,190, Crosswater 7 Fog **paint**, from £39.50 for 2.5l, Neptune 8 ILSE black glass **bowl**, £120, Georg Jensen 9 Stone One **bath**, £7,712, C.P. Hart 10 Hee **chair** by Hay, £140, Made In Design

FOR STOCKISTS, SEE PAGE 150

**BATHROOM
FURNITURE**

This atmospheric and contemporary bathroom features the Poppy 7723 washbasin, £474; Dolce 21104 freestanding bath, £2,678, all Saneux



STYLE ON TAP

The charming Cyclo basin mixer tap from Eau Couture boasts an elongated handle, brass spout and an anti-splash device. The Cyclo range is from £99



Out of the spout

Bring your bathroom to life with a shapely basin faucet

COMPILED BY KIRSTEN JONES



- 1** Strand one-hole mixer tap in chrome, £224, Aston Matthews **2** Ondus® three-hole basin mixer tap in chrome, around £715, Grohe **3** Savoy three-hole basin mixer tap in chrome with lacquered handles, from £612, Zucchetti **4** Imagine single lever basin mixer tap in chrome, £517, Porcelanosa **5** Bathroom tap in solid brushed stainless steel, £455, Vipp **6** Hexa mono basin mixer tap in chrome, £379, Ripples **7** Formwork three-hole deck-mounted tap with knob handles in nickel, £1,229, Waterworks **8** Koyo basin mixer tap in chrome, from £199, Eau Couture **9** Three-hole Jubilee basin set in polished nickel, from £1,269, Devon & Devon

FOR STOCKISTS, SEE PAGE 150



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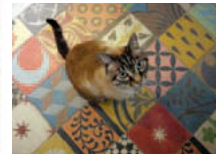
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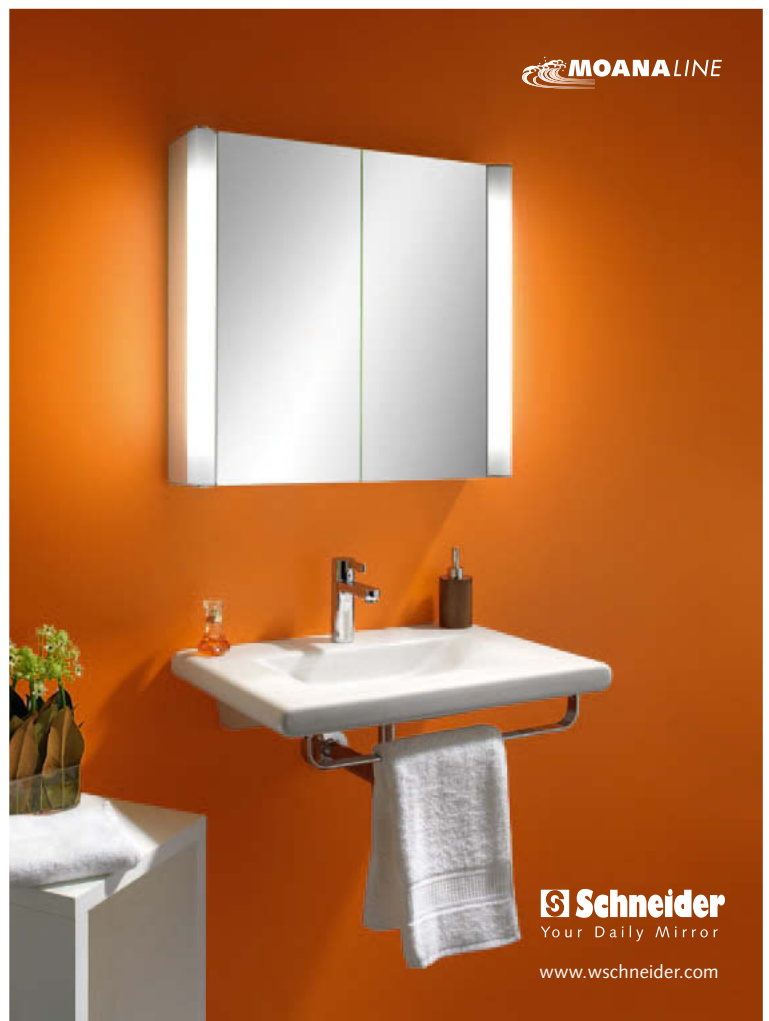
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Bedrooms

FAIRYTALE INSPIRATION

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NEWS • INTERIOR DESIGN • RUGS • STYLISH STORAGE IDEAS

Bedroom News

The latest launches, trends and inspiring things

WRITTEN BY EMMA FOALE



Poppy bedspread, from
£645, Button & Sprung



NEOCLASSICAL REVIVAL

Renowned for her lovely, water-based collection of Chalk Paint™, Annie Sloan has recently added a new colour. Napoleonic Blue, as its name suggests, is linked to Napoleon's love of neoclassical interior design. This nautical shade is just one of more than 30 decorative and historic colours in the range and, as with the other shades, it can be used to transform either walls, floors or furniture. It's 18.95 for a 1 litre pot or £5.95 for a 100ml tester pot. anniesloan.co.uk.

Home COMFORTS

New to the bedroom scene, Button & Sprung has a showroom in London's Hammersmith. The collection includes 11 upholstered beds handmade in solid beech and all available as a bedstead or divan. The 100 per cent natural pocket-sprung mattresses feature patented IQ Spring technology for support. buttonandsprung.com.



DAWN CHORUS

Evoking images of birds outside your window, the collection of Chika prints and wallcoverings from Sanderson Home includes Dawn Chorus (*shown*). The fresh aqua, lime and turquoise hues highlight the hand-drawn style of the finches perched on branches. £38 per roll. sanderson-uk.com.

Sofa so good

With similar features to an armchair but with extra room, the super-comfy Norton two-seater sofa is from £1,290. Designer and owner of British furniture brand James UK, James Harrison, has also just recently launched a complementary Norton ottoman for maximum comfort. jamesharrisondesign.com





Shopaholic's heaven

We all have our own ways of organising our wardrobes but often they are not most space efficient. If bespoke, made-to-measure storage is what you're after, take a look at the new Lema wardrobe collections, Warm (*shown*) and Aria, both designed by David Lopez Quinococes. The Warm design has a rich, natural leather upholstery finish and the height, width and depth can be customised to your space and needs. From £6,000. designspacelondon.com.



Metallic SHINE

Still dominating the trends, copper is a finish which we are loving on lighting right now. The Copper plated hanging lamp, £109, and Wire frame hanging lamp, £179 from Out There Interiors, make an impact with contemporary style. outthereinteriors.com.



CORAL INFUSION

We're still very much enjoying the trend for block colour which is why these cushions from Amara caught our attention. With a sleek, velvet cut design, the Calista cushion (*left*), £69 by Designers Guild, is in a pretty Blossom shade. Going for a simpler approach, the linen block cushion, £59, uses a mix of Misty Grey and Coral. amara.com.



MIGHTY OAK

Easy on the eye, the latest addition to the Fired Earth flooring range is the Wood collection including solid and engineered oak. Coastline, shown in Seashell, is in brushed and oiled oak for a smooth finish. This type of flooring looks great when it's kept bare because its grain adds warmth and character. For a timeless look, check out the parquet and panels which are also part of the range. From £85 per square metre. firedearth.com.

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Louise Bradley

OWNER, LOUISE
BRADLEY INTERIOR
DESIGN AND INTERIOR
ARCHITECTURE
PRACTICE

London-based interior designer, Louise Bradley, has over 20 years of experience and knowledge gained from working in the exciting and ever-evolving world of interiors. The Design Studio offers a bespoke service and involves Louise's team of professionals with a diverse range of skills.

INTERIOR DESIGNER

Bedroom

Original period features, sumptuous textures and clever lighting ensure this beautiful master suite is comfortable and stylish

PHOTOS RAY MAIN | WORDS EMMA FOALE

**COHESIVE
FEELING**

A variety of fabrics and finishes allows this comfortable sleeping area to flow with the rest of the room



Step inside this Georgian property and you'll find a beautifully designed master bedroom suite on the first floor which extends across the full width of the house. Interior designer Louise Bradley was in her element with this room, as she explains, 'It was a pleasure to work out a new configuration of the entire floor and maximise the space with natural light.' As well as the sleeping area, the room extends across the full width of the house and incorporates a relaxed seating area, dressing room and a large bathroom with a freestanding bath.

'As with all period properties, there are aspects of the original architecture that naturally influence design ideas, for example the wonderful ceiling height and bay windows,' Louise says. By contrasting the light-filled space with a dark, mood-enhancing colour palette, Louise has addressed the owners' request for

an elegant atmosphere and a warm and inviting space.

The owners also wanted somewhere they could feel relaxed, which has been considered here with the use of a bay window seating area and a bespoke TV cabinet which rotates 360 degrees so that they can watch from both the seating and sleeping areas.

Storage was also a key element in the owners' brief and much of it is hidden in this space, ensuring a clutter-free style. The bespoke dressing room provides a place for shoes, hanging space and compartments for jewellery and accessories, while there's additional concealed storage either side of the headboard. As well as these essential and practical elements, opulent and carefully-chosen textures are another successful part of this design, with a textured silk wall covering, faux fur throw and cushions and curved-back sofa to create a tactile and layered experience. **EKBB**

SEEKING COMFORT

Settling on the sofa, the owners' Miniature Schnauzer sits and enjoys the sunshine pouring in through the window

DRAMATIC LIGHTING

In the dressing room area, the tiered drape cascade hangs elegantly from the ceiling creating a striking statement



'I don't follow trends as my design style is timeless and elegant and my aim is to create spaces that will look good for years to come'

Q&A

What initial challenges did you come across and how did you overcome these? All new spaces

are challenging but it is exciting to look at the different options that can be created and come up with the ultimate space that suits not only the architecture of the house and that makes most of the natural light, but also realises the client's wish list.

How do you approach new bedroom projects and do you like to create mood boards?

The master bedroom is an important room as it is one of the most personal spaces in the house. Every brief is different but I like to create a calming space using luxurious

fabrics and beautiful linens that my clients enjoy retiring to at the end of the day. It is always exciting putting different fabrics and finishes together in the form of a mood board, with a view to exceeding the clients' expectations and creating a beautiful and luxurious space.

How did you make the most of natural light and beautiful views? The light

was beautiful because the property occupies a corner plot and the Georgian windows allow the light to flood in, almost bringing the outside in. I kept the curtain treatments very simple so that I didn't detract from the windows and the original shutters.

Please can you talk us through this space and the lighting and storage? The lighting was designed in a way that it created different schemes for the client's moods. The reflective high lacquer for the dressing room with beautiful centre storage enhanced the space, its light and its functionality.

Where do you find inspiration for your furniture and fabric collections? Do you follow trends? I find inspiration from everyday life, which includes travelling, books and just everything that is around me. I don't follow trends as my design style is naturally timeless and elegant and my ultimate aim is to create beautiful spaces that will look good for years to come.

PROJECT DETAILS

CURVED-BACK SOFA £5,495 (excluding fabric), from the Louise Bradley furniture collection **DRAPE CASCADE LIGHTING** £5,695, bespoke by Louise Bradley **BED** Similar from Go Modern **MIRROR** Bespoke by Louise Bradley **SIDE TABLE** in Mother of Pearl, £1,295, from the Louise Bradley furniture collection **FAUX FUR THROW** shown in Mink, also available in Grey, from the Louise Bradley furniture collection **SWIVEL TUB CHAIRS** (excluding fabric), £2,495, from the Louise Bradley furniture collection **OPENSHAW SIDE TABLE** in Grey Crocodile, £3,295, from the Louise Bradley furniture collection **BEDSIDE LAMPS** Bespoke by Louise Bradley **INTERIOR DESIGN** Louise Bradley

LUXURIOUS LINENS

Sumptuous layers of textiles create an appealing look when draped over a bed. The Mink faux fur throw, shown here, contrasts the crisp white linen



HIDDEN *depth*



For statement storage or a touch of vintage chic, wardrobes, cabinets and armoires are practical and stylish additions to any bedroom scheme

WORDS LINDA PARKER | PICTURE RESEARCH CIARA ELLIOTT



CENTRE STAGE

Opposite The Etien Armoire has a hand-painted frame in Antique Pale Linen with panels in Dark Linen and Silt V-groove. It costs from £3,444, with bespoke interior fittings and a pretty hand-painted design of Chinoiserie Birds. H205xW119xD65cm, from Leporello

TALL & SKINNY

Above This black metal cabinet, £1,340, has glass doors and drawers to help you create a pretty display. H220xW72xD40cm, Tine K Home

TRUE BLUE

Middle These House Doctor chest of drawers, £1,265, are made from solid wood with three different coloured drawer fronts and mismatched handles. H80xW100xD45cm, Bodie & Fou

COOL RUSTIC

Right This reclaimed double locker with a rustic finish is made from reclaimed Indian timber. H108xW43xD38cm. It's £345, from Rose & Grey



Once you've made the break away from fitted furniture, it's possible to have a little fun in choosing an imaginative scheme for your bedroom. If there are no ties to a fitted look, the theme can become more eclectic and organic, which is ultimately more creative and flexible. There's never been a better time to buy individual pieces of freestanding furniture, with a huge choice available online, and with many auction rooms and antique shops full to bursting point too. Seize the opportunity to buy one or two real 'focal point' pieces to complement an existing set of furniture or to add an unusual focus to a plain scheme. The looks of today have a real element of mix and match, with the emphasis very much on interesting pieces that can stand alone to add style and drama to the bedroom.

Try to avoid too much of a mish-mash though; it's a good idea to choose a particular emphasis, such as an intricate silhouette – illustrated by the curves and edges of the Leporello armoire which can be beautifully showcased against a darker, distressed wall finish. Carolyn Klimpton of Leporello says, 'Look for unique designs which feature inspirational shapes – perhaps picked out by contrasting painted panels and a hand-painted V-groove. Well-observed proportions, such as pieces that stand on refined legs, allow the space of the room to flow and the furniture to stand majestically. The insides can be fitted out to individual specifications, with bold, contrasting interior paint colours and fabulous hand-painted designs that provide a magical touch and a wry smile when opening the doors'. Alternatively, focus on a combination of finishes, textures and colours within a single item – such as the Bodie & Fou and West Elm pieces and the Rowen & Wren chalkboard cupboard, with numerous similar looks available – and display them against a plain and simple backdrop.

As always, when shopping for furniture the golden rule is to not leave the house without a tape measure, and to double-check all dimensions before buying – especially if you're shopping for the perfect alcove-filler or a bedside cabinet to fit seamlessly into the allocated floor space. Check that the depth of a wardrobe or armoire that will have hanging space is generous enough, and bear in mind that anything with less than 50cm is going to be a squeeze for full-size hangers. Don't confine your searches to bedroom furniture departments as chests of drawers can be multi-use, as lockers, sideboards, plan-chest style pieces and even desks can work as dressing tables or side tables. **EKBB**

GOOD WOOD

The Camden wardrobe is in solid oak with a white finish, H195xW90xD58cm. £699, Feather & Black



ROCK SOLID

In solid teak with a deep brown stained finish, the Seba wardrobe has two internal drawers and a fixed hanging rail. It measures H185xW115xD62cm and is £1,895, Lombok



‘Seize the opportunity to buy one or two ‘focal point’ pieces to complement an existing set of furniture or to add focus to a plain scheme’

GO WITH THE GRAIN

This quirky Patchwork armoire features six grained veneered wood finish fronts, two spacious cupboards and four drawers. It measures H176xW120xD59cm and has brushed brass finish handles. It's £1,299, West Elm



CHILD'S PLAY

The solid oak Whitby chalkboard cupboard has a weathered finish which is perfect for a nursery. H208xW81xD50cm. £1,468, Rowen & Wren



ANTIQUE BOUTIQUE

Fill a traditional-style armoire that has glass doors with a selection of luxurious towels, cushions and throws for beautiful display. (Shown here) Herringbone cushion with leather trim, £40, and Sussex Stripe bed linen, from £40 for a single flat sheet, all from Christy. Similar armoires available from I & JL Brown





PERFECT FIT

Nidi NIT wardrobe with three doors and open shelves at either end, also available in colours and with various sizes of Woody knobs. It measures H220xW221xD60cm. £1,999, Nubie

PALE AND INTERESTING

The Devon wardrobe with solid birch drawers and natural oak details, includes 130cm-wide hanging space and a single cupboard with adjustable shelves and rail. H198xW155xD63cm. It's £1,695, from the Ercol collection at The White Company



WARDROBE STAPLE

Top Attractive and functional with ample hanging space, the painted Chichester wardrobe in Old Chalk is a bestseller. H209xW128xD65cm. £1,450, Neptune

LOOK EAST

Middle The Typhoon Chinese wedding cabinet in Teal lacquer has useful removable shelves, a hanging rail and two drawers. It's £2,395 and measures H175xW100xD50cm, Orchid Furniture

RECLAIMED APPEAL

Bottom This hand-finished Honey Bunny wardrobe is in solid reclaimed fir and has a slight whitewash. H160xW85xD55cm. It's £675, Loaf



'The looks of today have an element of mix and match, with the emphasis on interesting stand-alone pieces that can add style and drama'

The Monique bedside chest has one drawer and one cupboard in solid beech, in a range of paint colours. It measures H70xWx53xD38.5cm and prices start from £1,250, And So To Bed



CUPBOARD LOVE

Wayne Clark, Creative Director, And So To Bed, comments:

KEEP IT PERSONAL There's such an extensive range of bedroom furniture on the market that enables you to create a unique and individual space. Choose wisely: the style of your bedroom is a very personal decision and says so much about you.

WORK WITH WOOD For those looking for a traditional style with a hint of antique grandeur, polished mahogany furniture works perfectly. Handmade and hand-carved furniture with elegant detailed carvings will evoke the fragrant charm of the South of France which creates a dreamy but time-honoured and charming bedroom.

JUST ADD COLOUR A classic bedside chest or chest of drawers in a bright or metallic finish can give the traditional style a modern twist. Hand-painted furniture enables endless possibilities, from traditional to contemporary or even romantic.



Eclectic TOUCH

Bright pops of turquoise glass and reviving summer shades will transform an off-white palette. Combine this colour scheme with a classic French mirror and hang an elegant chandelier from a high ceiling

COMPILED BY KIRSTEN JONES

- 1 Eichholtz Granville Luster chandelier, £4,400, Occa-Home
- 2 Reading Room claypaint, from £32.70 for 2.5l, Earthborn
- 3 Gold gilt Flowers & Ribbons mirror, £1,512, Sweetpea & Willow
- 4 Varo cream metal side table, £95, Habitat
- 5 Caulfield Azure table lamp, £311, Heathfield & Co
- 6 KP105 Knight Tile white-painted oak flooring, from £25 per sq. m, Kamdean
- 7 Angelica double bed in Deep Turquoise, £945, Sofa.com
- 8 Harlequin Lulu cushion in Claret & Sapphire, £35, John Lewis
- 9 Rattan shelf basket, £79, OKA
- 10 Nordic pitcher, £18, Nordic House

FOR STOCKISTS, SEE PAGE 150



AZTEC PATTERN

The refreshing Preeya bed linen from Kingsley Home is priced from £30 for a single duvet set



GEOMETRIC DESIGN

Inspired by the maze-like streets of North African cities and crafted from Bamboo Silk, the Medina rug offers both style and serenity. Priced from £125, Plantation Rugs



Roll-out style

Liven up your flooring with a vibrant striped or patterned rug

COMPILED BY KIRSTEN JONES



- 1** Everest Marrakech wool rug, £659, Kelaty **2** Haze wool and cotton mix handmade rug, £245, Loaf **3** Polly hand-tufted polyester rug, £249, Living It Up **4** Geo Wool Kilim handwoven heathered yarn rug, from £109, West Elm **5** Dhurrie Aberdeen hand-printed rug, £229, Idyll Home **6** Luna stripe handcrafted pure new wool rug, £239, Kelaty **7** Monographic hand-tufted wool rug, £249, Made.com **8** Break Trail Adobe hand-woven outdoor rug, £300, Ralph Lauren Home **9** Bridget Kilim flat weave wool rug, from £145, Jonathan Adler

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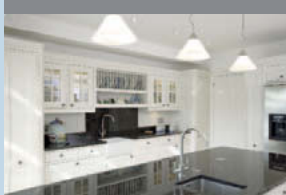
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Nikki TIBBLES

The creative talent behind florist Wild at Heart, Nikki Tibbles chats to us about her interiors style, first floral memories and dream dinner party

INTERVIEW CIARA ELLIOTT

One of fashion's favourite florists, Nikki Tibbles has recently designed the flowers for the society bride of the year, Poppy Delevigne and counts Chanel, Paul Smith, Prada and Burberry as clients. Nikki started her company, Wild at Heart, 21 years ago and has three shops in London, including a concession at Liberty. She also offers bespoke interior consultancy and styling services to private clients.

Describe your home and interiors style.

My home is where I have everything I love all in one place; my collections and paintings, my family and my dogs. We live in West London and also have a cottage in West Sussex. I love being in the city but there's nothing like escaping out to the countryside to refresh and relax. I'm very inspired by nature, and it gives me the perfect opportunity to see the seasons changing and come up with new ideas.

What are your most treasured possessions at home? My dogs of course! I have four – Reuben is a Ridgeback cross, Lenny is a Spanish Mastiff, and Smith and Tia are both cross-breeds.

We imagine you are a good cook. What's on the menu at your dream dinner party?

Yes you are right, I do love cooking and when I'm in the country I like to get creative and make jars of my own chutney and jam. I've also recently become vegetarian which is giving me a whole new way to think, cook and eat healthily. For my dream dinner party I'd use as many ingredients grown from my own garden as possible. There would be broad bean salad, wild garlic soup, local sea bass with homegrown herbs and my slow roasted tomatoes, all served with homegrown potatoes. We'd finish with fresh figs and berries and, of course, cake. My dream guests would be closest friends and family and I'd also really like to have Ghandi there. I would want him to tell us how to put this world right!

And the décor? It depends on the season but we would eat outside whatever the weather – at home we always have the fire pit going for cooler nights. I would have lots and lots of candles and lots of beautiful fresh flowers of course.

Any home styling tips for flowers?

Using a mass of one flower is one of the best ways to make a big statement but it's also nice to have single stems. I love vases in groups, and you don't have to put flowers in all of them, just one or two.

Are there signature flowers and colours that are fashionable at the moment?

We recently used blush and lemon peonies for fashion designer Charlotte Olympia's birthday party, but generally we're noticing a real trend towards English country garden style flowers – hydrangea, delphinium, foxgloves and, of course, roses. It's a style we used recently when designing the flowers for model Poppy Delevigne's wedding.

Tell us about your childhood memories of flowers? My parents had an allotment and my grandparents had a garden in the Isle of Wight, which I loved. There's a photo of me aged four-ish in tartan trousers after picking all his gladioli!

Do you have a favourite flower? And fragrance? Garden roses are so luxurious and classic, with pretty colours and textures and beautifully scented. My favourite fragrance, made for me as a gift by my friend and perfumier Lynn Harris, has tones of vanilla, parma violets, amber rose and green violet.

Any exciting plans for the rest of 2014?

We go all out for the new season which is hectic but rewarding. I also run a charity called Dog House, working to save stray and abused dogs. I'll be going to Romania with them before Christmas. **CKBB**
wildatheart.com



Above Nikki Tibbles outside the Pimlico Wild at Heart store

Above left In full bloom at the Liberty London concession

Above right A private dinner at Woburn Abbey which was styled by Wild at Heart

Right and below Nikki's country cottage in West Sussex is a homely and colourful mix of traditional, freestanding cabinetry and contemporary pieces, with lots and lots of accessories including tableware, lamps, candleholders, vases and art work. Her dogs are her most treasured possessions



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