

# KITCHENS

## for creative homes

*From mastering materials to feeling confident about colour, we have all the inspiration you need to power your next big project*

Words **CAT OLLEY**

### SEAMLESS style

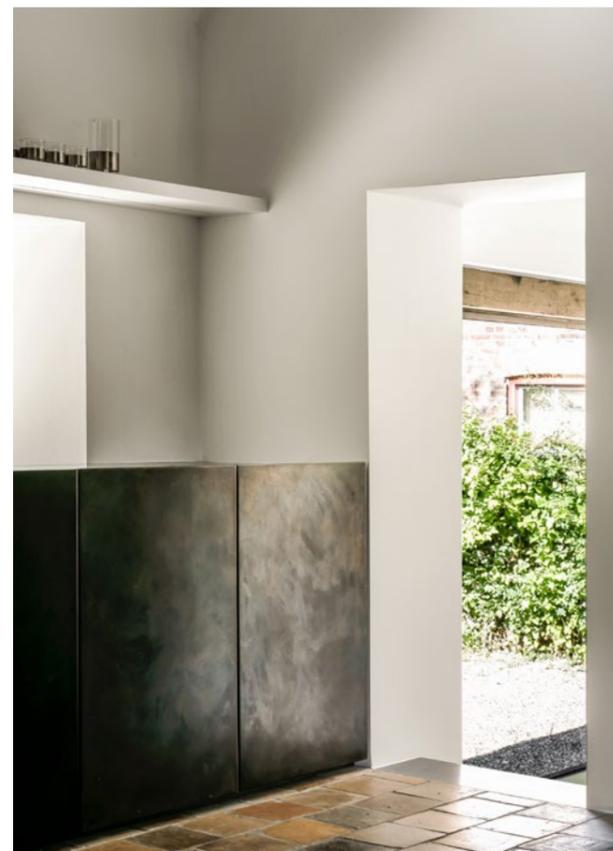
Beautiful materials are at their best when given space to breathe. Monolithic forms tend to maximise impact, but remember to pay close attention to transitions, too. This sleek design suggests three surfaces where there are actually five – the muted finish of the upper cupboards is the same as the splashback, while the inky floor pools out below matching metal cabinets.

As well as a mineral plaster finish on the walls, floor and upper cabinets, this bespoke kitchen by Belgian interior architect Dries de Malsche features a striking red travertine island. The oxidised metal finish of the lower cabinets is by Italian artisan metalworkers De Castelli. Price on application ([ontwerp bureaudries.be](http://ontwerp bureaudries.be); [decastelli.com](http://decastelli.com)) ►

## In the FRAME

Save for a small patch of tiles that act as insurance for spirited cooks, this finely crafted kitchen is a love letter to wood. The panelled alcove creates a sense of structure within a wider area, but it also serves a practical purpose by pushing the preparation zone into the wall and freeing up an extra foot of space in the room.

Danish practice Norm Architects commissioned a local carpenter to create this oak kitchen for a project just north of Oslo. 'Treble' bar stools by Northern, from £251 each, Connax ([connox.co.uk](http://connox.co.uk))



## AGED to perfection

Hard-working stainless steel might be the material of choice for top chefs, but a new appreciation for aged metals is spurring specialists to speed up the natural patina process of options like brass and bronze. The antithesis of sleek or polished finishes, the look speaks to a sense of longevity, individuality and a lived-in home. Cooler tones tend to feel more contemporary, but it's worth working out whether you prefer a weathered, oiled or oxidised effect, as each technique will produce a distinct result.

**Above left** Weathered-brass cabinet fronts star in this kitchen by Dutch interior designer Niels Maier. Price on application ([nielsmaier.com](http://nielsmaier.com))

**Above right** French architecture firm Helft & Pinta opted for cabinet fronts in aged mirror and beech veneer to fit Ikea units for this Paris kitchen. Approx £10,150, Helft Pinta ([heltpinta.com](http://heltpinta.com)). 'Rain C Fango' tiles by Mutina, £996.50 per sq m, Casa Ceramica ([casaceramica.co.uk](http://casaceramica.co.uk))

**Right** An oil finish was applied to this bespoke steel kitchen by Tom Robertson Architects. Approx £13,000 ([tomrobertson.com.au](http://tomrobertson.com.au)). 'Hotaru' light by Barber Osgerby for Ozeki & Co, £345, Twentytwentyone ([twentytwentyone.com](http://twentytwentyone.com)). Custom dining table by Bieemele, price on application (@bieemele). For vintage wicker and pine chairs by Alessandro Becchi for Giovannetti, try 1st Dibs ([1stdibs.com](http://1stdibs.com)) ▶

PICTURES: EINAR ASIAKSEN, CATHERINE BE, BERTRAND OMBREYNE, DEREK SWALVEU





## COLOUR code

Using one well-loved colour in a variety of guises might sound like a simple formula, but it's a sure-fire way to create a cohesive space that sings. The secret to this room's success is the way the same tone is mirrored in a range of textures, from ceramic tiles to glass lights, with natural materials to balance the rich sea-green shade.

Italian architect Fabio Fantolino created this laminate kitchen with copper handles for his own Turin apartment ([fabiofantolino.com](http://fabiofantolino.com)). For similar paint, try 'Deep Sea Green' by Valspar, £31 for 2.5 litres ([valsparpaint.co.uk](http://valsparpaint.co.uk)). 'Lins' tiles by Yonoh, £50.40 per sq m, Harmony Inspire ([harmonyinspire.com](http://harmonyinspire.com)). 'Nemo' wall lights by Fabio Fantolino for Oty Light, £288 each, Lightworks ([lightworks.co.uk](http://lightworks.co.uk))

PICTURES: FABIO FANTOLINO, MIKHAIL LOSKUTOV



## BLACK-out

We've come a long way since gleaming white countertops graced every kitchen, and more of us than ever choose moody tones for depth and drama. This sophisticated space, inspired by a French brasserie, has employed a few tricks to ensure it feels more glamour than gloom: the visible grain of the wooden cabinets, the swirling green marble, the white ceiling and the subtle glint of the custom glass display cabinet.

Paris-based interior architect Elena Kornilova opted for an Eggersmann kitchen in oak veneer, approx £46,000, when renovating this Moscow apartment ([elenakornilova.com](http://elenakornilova.com); [eggersmann.com](http://eggersmann.com)). For similar verde bamboo quartzite, try Cullifords, from £335 per sq m ([geraldculliford.co.uk](http://geraldculliford.co.uk)). '214' chair by Thonet, £642, Skandium ([skandium.com](http://skandium.com)). Custom 'Alba' table, price on application, Philippe Hurel ([philippe-hurel.com](http://philippe-hurel.com)). Alabaster pendant light by Emmanuel Levet Stenne, approx £7,320, Galerie Carole Decombe ([galeriecaroledecombe.com](http://galeriecaroledecombe.com)) ▶



This bespoke walnut kitchen by French architect and designer Pierre Yovanovitch features glass cabinet fronts from Atelier Emmanuel Barrois and a striking back panel by ceramic artist Armelle Benoit. Price on application ([pierreyovanovitch.com](http://pierreyovanovitch.com)). 'Pilule' glass pendants by JMW Studio, £7,050 each, The Invisible Collection ([theinvisiblecollection.com](http://theinvisiblecollection.com)). 'Tractor' counter stools, approx £1,070 each, Bassam Fellows ([bassamfellows.com](http://bassamfellows.com))

## IRREGULAR shapes

Between the obligatory cabinets, countertops and appliances, a kitchen can quickly feel like a series of blocks, but the island is a brilliant way to experiment with a sweeping curve or sharp geometry. Asymmetrical designs have a bespoke feel built in, while simple, streamlined materials will highlight interesting forms to best effect. There are a few golden rules when it comes to creating a sense of equilibrium – a group of three pendant lights hung at different heights will feel as visually balanced as a row arranged in rigid uniformity.



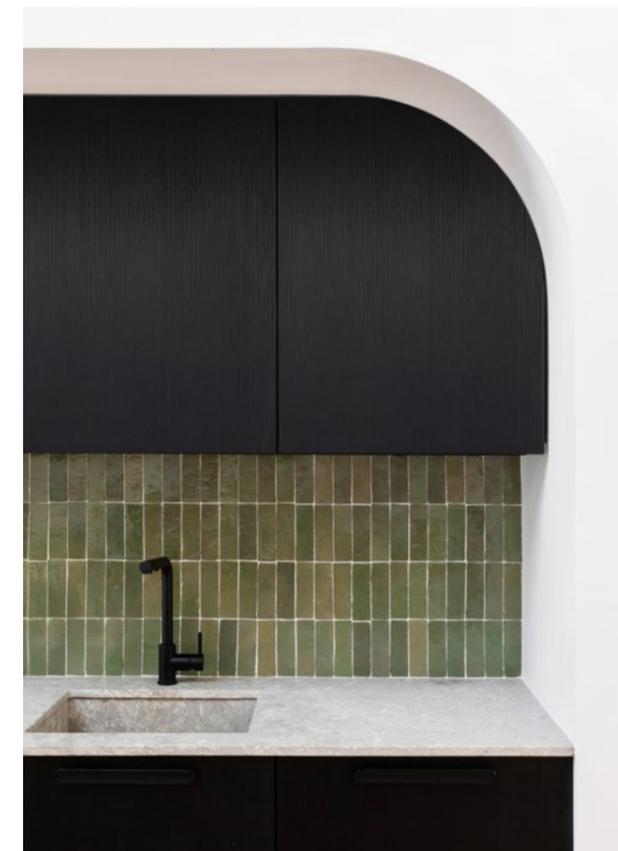
## CURVE appeal

More a seismic shift in the world of design and architecture than a passing trend, curved lines are dominating all manner of products and projects. It feels particularly pertinent in the kitchen, where arches and waves can soften the hard, cool materials that tend to dominate, such as glass, metal and laminate. Upper cabinets will call for bespoke carpentry, but it's worth bearing in mind that bijou homes are often the ones that serve to benefit the most from specialist input.

**Above left** This compact custom kitchen by Batiik Studio is elevated by polished concrete cabinetry. For similar paint, try 'Pink 02', £38 for 2.5 litres, Lick ([lick.com](http://lick.com)). Approx £7,000 ([batiik.fr](http://batiik.fr))

**Above right** Paris-based architecture practice Atelier Leymarie Gourdon teamed stained oak cabinetry with Grigio Alpi limestone worktops in this alcove. Price on application ([leymariegourdon.com](http://leymariegourdon.com)). Zellige tiles in 'No15', approx £120 per sq m, Maison Bayha ([maison-bahya.com](http://maison-bahya.com))

**Right** Belgian interior studio Van Staeyen created architectural curves from beech veneer for the kitchen of this project in Leuven, which also features silestone worktops. Approx £3,380 ([vanstaeyen.be](http://vanstaeyen.be)) ▶



PICTURES: FRANCOIS HALARD/PIERRE YOVANOVITCH, ROMAIN RICARD, BCDP STUDIO, LUC ROMANS

## ARTFUL disguise

Spectacular artisanal finishes don't tend to shine in the same way amongst clutter, so it can be worth making an extra effort to sequester as much as you can into clever storage. At first glance, this space appears more like an art gallery installation than a working kitchen, but look closer to spot the handles. The appliances have been neatly concealed within cupboards clad in a ceramic-tile landscape, which reflects light back into the room.

Italian architect Massimo Adario covered cupboards in a ceramic tile display by artist Francesco Ardini to create a distinctive backdrop for a steel and marble island. Price on application ([massimoadario.com](http://massimoadario.com); [francescoardini.com](http://francescoardini.com)) ►





## LAYER up

Calls for sleek and simple kitchens are increasingly being answered with designs that eschew upper cabinets. In our view, though, there's no such thing as too much storage. In fact, a design with a double row not only provides twice the space for kitchen essentials, thus reducing clutter on worktops, but establishes a more gentle transition between the upper cabinets and the splashback below.

In this white lacquer and quartzite kitchen interior architects Guillaume Steffanus and Studio Jasmin have maximised storage with a second layer of cabinets in oak. Approx £34,600 (guillamestefanus.com; studio-jasmin.com)



PICTURES: BCDP STUDIO, YVES DURONSOY

## MATERIAL world

It's been a long time since we saw the kitchen as a place of pure utility, but few treat the space with the same creative freedom that they might a living room. In reality, there are few materials that are out of bounds here, as long as they tick off some of the technical requirements. Slabs of marble might be the obvious choice for a luxe look, but what of leather, burl wood or coloured glass? This characterful kitchen, with its apricot and powder-pink hues, makes a convincing case for revisiting outdated ideas about colour, too.

Leather-wrapped units, tiger-onyx countertops and bespoke lighting lend a luxurious feel to this kitchen by French interior designer Anne-Sophie Pailleret. Price on application (anne-sophiepailleret.com). Terracotta stool by Marie Michielssen for Serax, £220, Selfridges (selfridges.com). Custom table by Anne-Sophie Pailleret and Kiev studio Faina, price on application (faina.design) ▶





## True BLUES

Classic navy might be a mainstay of kitchen design, but the bravest among us will be well rewarded by opting for brighter shades. Whether your reference point is sea, sky or a field of cornflowers, these uplifting mid-blues will bring out the shine in warm metallics and pop against other punchy hues. Subtleties in shade will make all the difference here, so choose blues with a grey undertone if you're wary of committing to zingy colour. A matte finish will ensure a sleek, modern look.

**Above right** Australian architecture firm Cloud Dwellers utilised two-tone laminate cabinetry and terrazzo countertops to modernise the kitchen of this suburban home. Approx £29,950 ([cloud-dwellers.com.au](http://cloud-dwellers.com.au)). For similar tiles, try 'Minokoyo' tiles, price on application, Nagoya Mosaic Tile Co. ([nagoya-mosaic.co.jp](http://nagoya-mosaic.co.jp)). For similar paint, try 'Open Water' by ELLE Decoration x Crown, £37.99 for 2.5 litres ([crownpaints.co.uk](http://crownpaints.co.uk))

**Above left** Painted cabinetry lifts this wood kitchen by Pierre Yovanovitch, which features a worktop in Basaltine stone. Price on application ([pierreyovanovitch.com](http://pierreyovanovitch.com)). For similar paint, try Little Greene's 'Woad', £52 for 2.5 litres ([littlegreene.com](http://littlegreene.com)). 'Laleggera' chair by Riccardo Blumer for Alias, £624, Twentytwentyone ([twentytwentyone.com](http://twentytwentyone.com))

**Left** German creative director Swantje Hinrichsen opted for Reform's Basis design in a custom colour. From approx £218 for a front ([reformeph.com](http://reformeph.com)). For coloured grout, try Topps Tiles' 'Matrix' range ([toppstiles.co.uk](http://toppstiles.co.uk)). 'Hanging lamp' by Muller Van Severen for Valerie Objects, from £612, Viaduct ([viaduct.co.uk](http://viaduct.co.uk))

PICTURES: STEPHEN LULLIARD, CATHY SCHUSLER, BIRGITTA WOLFGANG BJØRNVAD / THE SISTER AGENCY



## Cool CONTRAST

Some covet concrete for its industrial appeal, while others write it off as a one-dimensional material best suited to urban lofts and warehouse conversions. Unfairly, we say – it's supremely hardwearing, can be used on walls or floors and makes a brilliant foil for warmer materials like wood, as evidenced by this surprisingly restful space. Well-judged details like the wooden window and door frames are key to the balance here and bring a sense of refinement to its rough-hewn tactility.

Raw concrete walls bring an industrial edge to Danish brand Garde Hvalsøe's 'Layer' oak kitchen in the home of architect Rasmus Bak. Price on application ([gardehvalsoe.dk](http://gardehvalsoe.dk); [baksarkitekter.dk](http://baksarkitekter.dk)) **ED**