

# COUNTRY & TOWN HOT SEED

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Seventies**

*Fashion's fabulous  
decade*

**Kitchens &  
Bathrooms**

45 page focus

The  
Interiors  
Issue

**DESIGN  
DREAM TEAM**

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# KITCHENS & BATHROOMS

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# IN THE KNOW

ARE YOU AFTER A KITCHEN AS A STYLE STATEMENT OR DO YOU FAVOUR FUNCTIONALITY? HERE, THREE EXPERTS OFFER ADVICE



## TOM HOWLEY

*Good craftsmanship and practical advice*

'It's the little things that bug me,' says Tom Howley, design director of his eponymous brand. 'When I design something, I concentrate on detail: if I say it must be 5mm and it's 10mm, I'll spot it straight away.' Part of the Neville Johnson group, Tom Howley's handcrafted kitchens incorporate everything from pantry cabinets to wine coolers. His advice for people embarking on a new project is to consult a kitchen company early on, particularly in a new build as windows and doors may need moving and access needed for electricity and water pipes.

Clients should also be realistic about the space available too:

'People often want too many things so allow yourself to be guided by a kitchen expert as a good one will tailor the design.' He also suggests not skimping on appliances.

'The biggest bugbear in a kitchen is when an appliance fails. These are items you use day in, day out, so spend wisely.'

020 7499 5145; [tomhowley.co.uk](http://tomhowley.co.uk)



## WOODSTOCK FURNITURE

*English heritage and creativity*

Andrew Hall, a kitchen designer by trade, has been at the helm of Woodstock Furniture since 2004. His ethos is simple. Just listen to the customer. He takes into account every element to create a design that's individual and distinctive. 'The key to designing a great kitchen is to assess your needs honestly. Many

people admire a minimal look, but we don't all live that way,' he says.

The workshops are based in Hampshire and clients can visit to see their design in progress. The company's first projects featured solid timber but now they build in

any material and often contrast the warmth of oak or walnut against marble or quartz. The designs often feature curved edges which bring softness and can feel more welcoming than stone. 'I never try to sell anyone a particular range or impose my views on them. It's their kitchen and, for me, the most important thing is to start every project with an open mind.' 020 8876 0131; [woodstockfurniture.co.uk](http://woodstockfurniture.co.uk)



## POLIFORM

*Italian flair*

'A kitchen must work, there's no point in making something pretty if it isn't a pleasure to use,' says George Khachfe, interior architect and manager of Poliform's King's Road showroom, which offers Varenna kitchens. Poliform has always attracted a roll-call of guest designers such as Marcel Wanders, Paolo Piva and Carlo Colombo, who have lent their talents to its creative ranges. Colombo's 'Twelve' kitchen is sculptural and minimal without falling into the trap of being clinical, while Paolo Piva's 'Alea' kitchen features clearly defined panel gaps. A typical Varenna kitchen from Poliform has a mixture of tall and low units, and an island for balance, while inside drawers and cupboards house knives and kitchen instruments. A blissful sight for those who crave order. 020 7368 7600; [poliformuk.com](http://poliformuk.com)

