



## Modern L'Illiy

With clean lines, rustic accents and a hardworking approach, the latest in British kitchen design blends industrial and utilitarian styling to perfection

FEATURE HAYLEY GILBERT





## Material MATTERS

KIRAN NOONAN, MANAGING DIRECTOR AT JOHN LEWIS OF HUNGERFORD, HAS THIS ADVICE:

- Modern utility spaces need to be super practical and hardworking to suit a busy lifestyle. They need to either be open and accessible with open shelving above and below the counter, or hidden away in defined zones. Use pantries or larder cupboards for food storage with everything in one place. Utility spaces can also incorporate work areas such as breakfast stations, baking areas and social media zones.
- Granite and quartz are firm favourites for worktops, as they are hardworking materials. They are also available in very modern finishes such as honed or suede as well as new varieties that can take on the appearance of concrete with a very realistic finish. Real, poured concrete is still used but these new quartz varieties create a similar look, are easier to install and are eminently more practical.
- Surfaces and materials need to be durable with minimal time for cleaning. Timber is a key feature of a modern utilitarian look, from chunky butcher's blocks for preparation, breakfast bars and floating open shelves. It's a hardwearing surface when looked after and adds another texture to a kitchen scheme.
- Painted cabinetry, though it can sound delicate, is actually a very hardwearing surface when applied correctly. A good painted kitchen company will test its paint finish and ensure it is suitable for the kitchen environment, offering a low maintenance surface with an unlimited range of colours to create your individual look.
- Internal accessories are now available in a number of modern finishes. Most popular at present is a gunmetal or anthracite finish on metal baskets and pull-outs. These echo style choices for room design such as Crittall-style windows, metal sliding doors and exposed steel supports.