

UTOPIA

REAL  
HOMES

# KITCHEN & BATHROOM

LOVES... STYLE | DESIGN | TRENDS

ISSUE 137 DECEMBER 20



TV'S LAURA HAMILTON: 'DON'T SCRIMP BE SAVVY'

## Winter warmers

UTOPIA LOVES

That's rich  
Jewel tones are back

Can you feel it?  
Kitchens get tactile



Let it show

Why we still love a white bathroom

US GET YOUR CHRISTMAS ESSENTIALS FOR THE BIG DAY!

ISSN 1753-9684



9 771753 968053

# Can you feel it?

Interior décor is getting increasingly expressive with surfaces calling out to be explored. Trigger your senses with a texturally tactile kitchen!

**Humans possess an innate need to touch. Take a museum sculpture for instance. After taking in its visual splendour, most of us will get the urge to run our mitts all over it to get the full sensory experience.**

Reaction-provoking textures have been a huge trend in interior décor throughout 2018 – and the desire for surfaces calling out to be touched shows no signs of abating. Indeed, kitchens are now going all-out touchy-feely, from worktops to wall tiles to cabinet doors.

Sumptuous surfaces have always been popular, albeit in a discreet manner through ceramics, accessories and tableware, according to Claire O'Brien, head of design and product at British Ceramic Tile.

However, over the last year, tile surfaces have embraced the texture trend creating shadow, depth and character to interior spaces. "These structured tiles

an extra dimension to traditionally smooth surfaces," observes Claire. "Many of these tactile designs have a 'touch-me' quality and deliver texture in abundance, reflecting the nation's appetite for industrial spaces and aged interiors with a story to tell.

"Many of us are choosing texture and character over sleek and shiny. It's a style I absolutely love as the look is so personal and individual... Whether you have a contemporary or a rustic-style kitchen, this trend can work wonders for any space.

Neil Lerner, managing director of Neil Lerner Kitchen Design, adds, "With an ongoing shift towards individuality in today's kitchen design, the latest fronts, finishes and solutions have become instrumental in creating definition and personality. Heavily grained wood and dark veneers are making a comeback as they make a bold statement in the kitchen. It's all about impact, individuality and



4



**Above:** The embellishment on this McCarron & Co kitchen is laser cut from bronze metal influenced by Moroccan trellis patterns. It helps form a layering effect that is balanced with the ceramic floor pattern forming a 'rug' effect under the island area. The waterfall folding detail of the natural granite worktops to the floor at either end of the island also plays with the harmony of textures. The Modena style cabinets are painted on Ash timber that subtly shows the wood grain through the paint. Kitchens from £35,000. [mccarronandco.com](http://mccarronandco.com)

**Left:** Bring texture to kitchen walls with wood-effect tiles and arrange in a chevron pattern to add visual interest. The HD Rustic Wood range from British Ceramic Tile, available in white, light grey, dark grey and beige in a 148x498mm format, £32 per square metre. [britishceramictile.com](http://britishceramictile.com)