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LATEST KITCHEN TRENDS

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THIS SEASON'S MUST-HAVE GREY KITCHEN ACCESSORIES

STAFFORDSHIRE BARN CONVERSION

"The ergonomics of the design had to be exactly right in terms of cooking, family use and entertaining"

DIVERSE BATHROOM FURNITURE SCHEMES | PLUS - THE TOP 18 MUST-HAVE BATHROOM BASINS

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£4

Full-height cupboards will create maximum storage and keep your appliances out of sight. This Alno by Halcyon kitchen features Alno Star Fine matt lacquer in Graphite and Alno Star Dur textured laminate in Lava Grey for the island, with Samsung Ural grey composite tops. From £30,000. alno.co.uk

This year, kitchens are all about smooth, polished concrete, dark cabinets and brassware, large copper appliances, metallic shelving and standout sinks in gold, marble or cement.

"For many, concrete may seem like an unusual choice," says Adrian Stoneham, managing director at Stoneham Kitchens, "but in the right setting its rustic, textured look can set just the right tone, particularly for those looking to create an industrial design.

"In its exposed, uncovered state, it has a bold, hard-hitting quality and is incredibly versatile as it can be cast into shapes and slabs or poured, smoothed and polished, making it suitable for worksurfaces and floors."

MATERIAL GAINS

There is a huge market for raw materials at the moment, according to Bert & May's founder Lee Thornley. "We suggest going for as many natural materials as possible," he advises.

"Use re-purposed timber, natural ply, aged bronze and hand-moulded metal to create that bespoke-luxury-meets-understated-elegance look. Mix rustic finishes with refined elements, whether that is a polished concrete countertop or luxe gold tap."

Dark cabinets are where it's at right now: "This could be a navy or dark wash wood," adds Lee. "Sometimes adding colour to a decorating scheme can seem like one of the most difficult tasks in the planning process, especially when you are introducing it into areas that can be difficult to update, such as splashbacks, counters and cabinets."

Another trend is to combine a timber veneered cabinet with a contrasting smooth, matt or textured door, such as the deep, knurled texture of burnt ash or the dusky tones of smoked oak veneer alongside a painted in-frame style or a dark wood combined with a metallic finish.

Melissa Klink, head of design for Harvey Jones, explains that they have expanded their internal carcasses to include oak and walnut finishes.

"Units may appear the same from the outside, but internally there are a variety of options to suit every need and scheme. →



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