

HOMES & GARDENS®



**CREATIVE
PROJECTS**
PRETTY PANTRIES
CUSTOM FINISHES
BATHROOM
LIGHTING

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KNOW-HOW**
HOW TO
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COLLECTIONS
THE BEST BESPOKE
FURNITURE MAKERS

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MARCH 2023



KITCHENS & BATHROOMS

LUXURIOUS BATHING SPACES RULE WITH BESPOKE SHOWERS AND SCULPTURAL LIGHTING BEING BIG NEWS, THE PANTRY IS COMING OUT OF THE SHADOWS AND CUSTOM CABINET FINISHES ARE ALL THE RAGE

BESPOKE FINISHES FOR CABINETRY

MAKE THE HEART OF THE HOME UNIQUE WITH CUSTOM DESIGNS

DECISION FACTORS The material used for the cabinet doors in your kitchen is a key design consideration, given that the door and drawer fronts usually make up the largest element of the room. You may wish to consider a bespoke finish for creating something that is special, whether you choose it for all the door fronts or to highlight a key feature, such as an island. But where to begin? 'When commissioning a bespoke finish, think about its use and what the material might be subjected to,' advises Rupert Bevan, known for his bespoke furniture and specialist finishes. Brass, for example, is an organic material which reacts to its environment. 'Left unlacquered, brass will slowly age and patinate with fingerprints and water marks becoming part of its character and mellowing over time,' he explains. If, however, you prefer a more pristine look, the desired patination can be fixed in place with the application of lacquer to its surface.

STONE The design of a monolithic island can be enhanced by cladding it – door and drawer fronts included – in thin slabs of natural stone. 'Some stones will be more suitable than others in the kitchen,' explains Joshua Tait, senior designer at Eggersmann Design, who recommends quartzite as more forgiving than marbles, which are more porous and can stain, while textured finishes, such as leathering, can add to the tactile experience. 'You can usually let the stone do the talking, using more subtle materials for all the surrounding joinery, adding warmth and elevating the beauty of your chosen stone,' he adds.

MARQUETRY One way to enhance the beauty of natural timber is to commission a marquetry

design, the art of applying veneer to furniture to form decorative patterns, designs or pictures. Charlie Smallbone, founder of Ledbury Studio, has designed marquetry kitchens as a contemporary take on traditional artisanal skills, using crosslaid veneers and liquid metal inlays to form decorative patterns. Given the thousands of possible marquetry designs, Charlie recommends working with your supplier to ensure you can envision what the finished doors might look like before you proceed. 'After discussing ideas with our clients, we will produce drawings and full colour 3D renders,' he says of his process. 'Once approved, we will make a sample door for the client's final approval.'

FLUTED Matt Prall, managing director of Papilio, likes to use interesting materials and textures to re-imagine traditional kitchen furniture, recently using fluted finishes to add design interest to his projects. 'The key considerations when selecting a bespoke finish are aesthetics versus practicalities,' he says. But if you are willing to devote a little time to caring for your cabinets, wiping up spills promptly and avoiding bashes, an island wrapped in fluted engineered wood could be just as hardwearing as one with classic wood doors.

MIXING MATERIALS A combination of bespoke materials and finishes can be used to add personality to your kitchen, especially effective when they enhance each other. Paul Welburn, designer at Roundhouse, recently clad an island in bespoke antique brass, wrapping it in striking green quartzite. 'We wanted to allow the relationship between these two materials to work as the focal point of the kitchen, using simple black doors for the wall cabinets,' he explains. ■

SOURCEBOOK: KITCHENS IN EXCEPTIONAL MATERIALS

SCAVOLINI

The Libra kitchen from this Italian brand features industrial-look perforated sheet metal wall units; kitchens from £10,000. scavolini.com

SHERATON INTERIORS

This company is able to produce kitchens in Fenix, a high-tech material with super-matt anti-fingerprint finish; kitchens from £28,000. sheratoninteriors.co.uk

THE MAIN COMPANY

This bespoke kitchen specialist is known for sustainable designs, showcasing the warmth and individuality of timber; kitchens from £25,000. maincompany.com

HALCYON INTERIORS

A contemporary kitchen brand able to produce bespoke cabinets clad in porcelain, creating dramatic effects; kitchens from £28,000. halcyoninteriors.com