

Media Outlet: *Living Etc*

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DESIGN Project

EDITED CHOICE

Essential elements **WORKTOPS**

Different materials can radically alter the look of a kitchen – and not just in surface appeal

**NATURAL STONE****BEST MATERIALS** Granite, marble, limestone and slate.**IDEAL FOR** Dream homes – stone is durable, so will last a lifetime if you look after it.**NOT FOR** Those on a budget – this is an investment worktop option.**THE HIDDEN ELEMENT** Great for adding a statement textural element to your design, such as in a stand-alone island, or an integrated table extension.

Pictured, from front to back: Giallo Cecilia GRUNGC granite, £475 per linear m, PWS; Glazed lavastone in Ivory, around £2,100 per sq m, Fired Earth; Antique Brushed Brazilian black slate tile, from £21.18 per sq m, Mrs Stone Store; and Polished Bianco Carrara C marble, from £75 per sq m, Floors of Stone.

**MAN-MADE****BEST MATERIALS** Laminates, composites, acrylics and solid surfaces.**IDEAL FOR** Affordability – laminates cost from as little as £25 per m.**NOT FOR** Those who prefer a more natural feel.**THE HIDDEN ELEMENT** Because of the uniformity of finish in colour and texture, you can create a seamless transition between the cooking and living areas.

Pictured, from front to back: Natural Acrylic stone S112 in Greenish Grey, from £250-£300 per linear m, Hi-Macs; Ethereal Azure quartz composite, from £310 per linear m, Corian; Cloud White quartz composite, £330 per linear m, Zodiaq; and quartz composite 2220 in Ivory, £1,290 per linear m, Caeserstone.

**GLASS****BEST MATERIALS** Tempered (strengthened) or recycled glass.**IDEAL FOR** Practicality – glass is water- and heat-resistant.**NOT FOR** Clumsy cooks who forget the chopping board, as glass can scratch easily.**THE HIDDEN ELEMENT** A glass worktop can be made to seem virtually invisible, great if you want to wholly disguise the working area of your kitchen.

Pictured, from front to back: Aqua Deedee polished low-iron glass, £195 per sq m, Glasscut; frosted glass worktop in Putty, from £384 per linear m, John Lewis; and Arquisi AL003G laminated and toughened glass with encapsulated fabric, from £750 per sq m, specialistglasswork.com.

WOOD**BEST MATERIALS** Oak, beech, teak and iroko.**IDEAL FOR** Ageing gracefully – marks and scratches can become an intrinsic part of the look. Affordability – wood starts at around £50 per linear m.**NOT FOR** Lazy types – wood needs to be oiled regularly and often fully resealed.**THE HIDDEN ELEMENT** Wood is the material that lends itself most easily to looking good in both kitchen and living areas.

Pictured, from front to back: Side pressed ply in Darjeeling, from £130 per linear m, Bamboo Surfaces; Vermont washed oak, around £484.80 per linear m, Fired Earth; and Wenge timber, from £260 per linear m, Second Nature.

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THIS PICTURE inspired by the look of vintage wardrobes, these bespoke cabinets by Mowlem & Co conceal the kitchen appliances. Price on request for similar. BELOW Descending flush to the worktop, the Elica Andante downdraft extractor costs from £1,999



Essential elements APPLIANCES

It's not a kitchen without a cooker, but that doesn't mean you can't hide it behind some sleek design.

If you really want to disguise your kitchen, you have to make your appliances appear invisible," says Hayley Shaw, head of product for Magnet. "Integration is key for items such as fridge freezers." Fixed cabinet doors may take care of some appliances, but ovens, hobs and extractors have traditionally been trickier. Now ovens in particular can be concealed behind sliding or pocket doors, or be flat-fronted to sit level with cabinetry.

If you can't easily hide your appliances, use clever design techniques to minimise their appearance. "Position yourself in different areas of the room and site the oven where it's least likely to be seen from those points," advises Chris Mossop, designer at Harvey Jones Kitchens.

Unless you're choosing a statement model that also masquerades as a pendant light, it's likely that you won't want to see your cooker hood. "A downdraft extractor is ideal for minimalist kitchens, or where ceilings are low, vaulted or beamed. At the touch of the controls, it rises to just above pan height to perform powerfully, yet quietly," says Richard Walker, marketing director at De Dietrich Kitchen Appliances.

The newest twist on the downdraft extractor is the updraft, which can be installed within wall-mounted cupboards, descending when in use, or you could



choose a recessed ceiling extractor overhead, operated by remote control.

For cooking, induction hobs are the most discreet choice. Pick a colour similar to your work surface to maximise this – as well as black, white and silver versions are also available. "The use of an induction hob and downdraft extractor make a room less obviously a kitchen space," says Andrew Barr at Espresso Design. Thanks to minimal residual heat, hobs can also be concealed under a worktop cover when cool for the ultimate in a hidden kitchen.

SOURCE BOOK

Kitchens

- Bulthaup en.bulthaup.com
- Chamber Furniture chamberfurniture.co.uk
- Dada dadaweb.it
- Doca UK docauk.com
- Euromobil gruppoeuromobil.com/eng
- Harvey Jones Kitchens harveyjones.com
- Ikea ikea.com
- In-toto intoto.co.uk
- Magnet magnet.co.uk
- Mascari mascari.co.uk
- Poggenpohl poggenpohl.co.uk
- Roundhouse roundhousedesign.com
- Second Nature sncollection.co.uk
- SieMatic siematic.co.uk
- Smallbone of Devizes smallbone.co.uk

Appliances

- Elica elica.co.uk

Lighting

- John Cullen Lighting johncullenlighting.co.uk

Walls, floors and surfaces

- Anna French thibautdesign.com
- Bamboo Surfaces mosobamboosurfaces.co.uk
- Caesarstone caesarstone.co.uk
- Corian dupont.co.uk
- Dalux dalux.co.uk
- Fired Earth fredearth.com
- Floors of Stone floorsofstone.com
- Glassact glassactuk.com
- Hi-Macs himacsuk.co.uk
- John Lewis johnlewis.com
- Mrs Stone Store mrs-stone-store.com
- PfS pfs.co.uk
- The Resin Flooring Company resinflooringcompany.com
- Rockett St George rockettstgeorge.co.uk
- specialistglasswork specialistglasswork.com
- Zodiaq zodiaq.co.uk

Tradespeople

- Federation of Master Builders fmb.org.uk
- Rated People ratedpeople.com

Salvage and reclamation

- Lassco lassco.co.uk
- Retrouvius retrouvius.com
- SalvoWeb salvoweb.com