EDITED CHOICE

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DESIGNProject

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 worklop 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 GRUKGC granite, £475 per linear m, PWIS: Clazed lawastone in lvory, around £2,100 per sq m, Fired Earth; Antique Brushed Brazilian black slate tille, from £21.18 per sq m, Mrs Stone Store; and Polished Bianco Carraro C marble, from £75 per sq m, Floors of Stone.



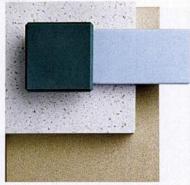
GLASS

BEST MATERIALS Tempered (strengthened) or recycled glass.

IDEAL FOR Practicalty – 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, Glassact: frosted glass worktop in Putty, from £384 per linear m, John Lewis; and Arquilfi AL-003G laminated and toughened glass with encapsulated fabric, from £750 per sq m, specialistiglasswork.com.



MAN-MADE

IDICAL IN * NO. A.D.D.B.

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 feet.

THE HIDDEN ELEMENT Secause 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 £250-5300 per linear m, Hi-Macs: Ethereal Azure quartz composite, from £310 per linear m, Carian; Clicud White quartz composite, £330 per linear m, Zodian; and quartz composite £220 in lvory, £1,250 per linear m, Casearstone.



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 offed 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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