

PRECIOUS METALS

Showcasing the best of **Ledbury Studio's Metallics Collection**, from £50,000, this kitchen features dramatically aged sheets of both pewter and zinc. In combination with two colours of painted units, a durable Bianco Macaubas quartzite worktop and antiqued mirror, this scheme deftly mixes materials without ever looking overworked



MIXED *signals*

FOR A KITCHEN WITH CHARACTER AND DEPTH, LOOK BEYOND UNIFORM MATERIALS AND REFINE THE PERFECT MIX

FEATURE *Hugh Metcalf*



PHOTO PAUL CRAIG

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hen you come to choose material finishes for your new kitchen, you'll soon realise that your choices are almost unlimited and that, possibly, there's more to life than a simple design with just one style of cabinetry and worktop. From natural wood and stone to industrial metals and concrete,

each of these materials can be specially crafted to add a new dimension to your kitchen, evoking different moods and design styles. However, it's the way that you mix them that will give the resulting scheme its real magic. 'Most people dream of a unique, bespoke and entirely personal space to spend their time in,' says The Main Company's director, Alex Main. 'This can be achieved by mixing materials to create a distinctive design.'

But deciding on the materials is only half of the battle – it's that deft touch in combining them where your kitchen designer will really showcase their talents. Mixing and matching finishes on cabinetry doors and work surfaces can create a striking effect, but if you've got a statement material you really want to showcase, put it front and centre, suggests Adrian Stoneham, managing director at Stoneham Kitchens. 'You could opt for a kitchen island in a different material and finish to create a focal point of the room.'

Integrating different materials doesn't just have to be for aesthetic reasons, but also for functional ones. 'Different worktops, for example, work extremely well for highlighting a specific zone for food preparation,' continues Adrian. And, as you'll see in this selection of kitchens utilising a wide selection of material finishes, durability and practicality is often a forming factor in the choices made in the design of these spaces. **EKBB**

PATTERNED AFTER NATURE

Above The patterning of the Italian stone veneer cladding used on this kitchen island by The Wood Works is unique to each piece, as it's a natural product. Elsewhere, inside acrylic fronted pocket doors, a stained ash interior offers an interesting outlook when making your morning coffee.

Kitchens from
£25,000

BRONZE AGE

Right A perfect combination of wood, stone and metal, this modern kitchen by DesignSpace London features a 30mm Taj Mahal quartzite on the island, floor and splashback, teamed with Modulnova's MH6 in Bronze metallised finish and walnut wall panelling. Kitchen prices start from £25,000



TRIPLE THREAT

Right This design blends together three ranges from Schmidt Kitchens to create a coherent scheme showcasing different materials. The Loft slab-fronted door and Take collection with integrated handles are both shown in Tonka, with an inset run of Arcos cabinet above the sink and hob in Vintage Oak. Prices start from £10,000

WONDERFUL WOOD

Below right Lined oak bespoke cabinetry paired up with a light herringbone wooden flooring creates a natural backdrop, against which the dark blue cabinetry and Caesarstone work surface stand out. Kitchens from £25,000



Expert advice

Charlie Smallbone, founder of **Ledbury Studio**, on how he successfully mixes materials in a kitchen scheme

- Always keep the mantra 'less is more' in mind when using different materials to create a contrast in your kitchen. At Ledbury Studio I have designed metal or glass doors that sit above simple timber doors with an intervening stone worktop. Limiting the mix of materials is instrumental to the success of the design.
- Think about using unexpected materials in specific areas of your kitchen design – but always remember your design must be functional. The Housekeeper's Cupboard from our Ledbury Shaker collection has a beautiful walnut interior that I have contrasted with a practical quartz worktop.
- Successfully mixing materials is all about the blend and the point where the materials meet. Get this right and the design tends to work.
- Consider different uses of the same material. I designed and fabricated a beautiful quartzite stone sink from the same Bianco Macaubas stone used for the rest of the island worktop – a cool design feature that is really practical.

