

KITCHEN NEWS



Marble look

Xtone is a new high-performance surface material from Porcelanosa (01923 815 200; porcelanosa.com). Made from sintered porcelain and minerals, the large-format slabs can be used for worksurfaces, furniture and cladding. It is highly resistant to stains, chemicals, heat, fire, thermal shock, scratching, water and UV rays, making it suitable for use inside and out. There are 19 designs, including Porto Grey, seen here on the island. It costs from £71 per sqm.



Dark arts

Designer Charlie Smallbone has been at the forefront of quality kitchens since the 1980s, and Ledbury Studio (ledburystudio.com) is his latest venture. Its Metallic Collection has minimal brass door frames, Georgian-style cock bead moulding and marble surfaces. Fascia panels include these black-stained ash and verdigris copper designs. From £50,000.

To date, The Used Kitchen Company (020 8349 1943; theusedkitchencompany.com) has saved over 11,000 tonnes of kitchen furniture from ending up as landfill. It buys and sells used and ex-display cabinets from private sellers as well as brands such as Boffi, Poggenpohl, Ikea and Howdens.



Latest model

This new WQ9 BIL American-style four-door fridge freezer by Whirlpool (03448 224 224; whirlpool.co.uk) has no central pillar in the fridge section, making it ideal for storing platters and larger items. It has a sensor that automatically maintains an even temperature throughout, and the freezer includes a FlexiFreeze compartment with soft freeze, mild freeze and deep freeze settings. It also has gradual lighting that gently increases the interior's brightness, allowing the user's eyes to adjust when the door is opened. It costs around £2,000. >>