

HOMES & INTERIORS

SCOTLAND

Chill OUT

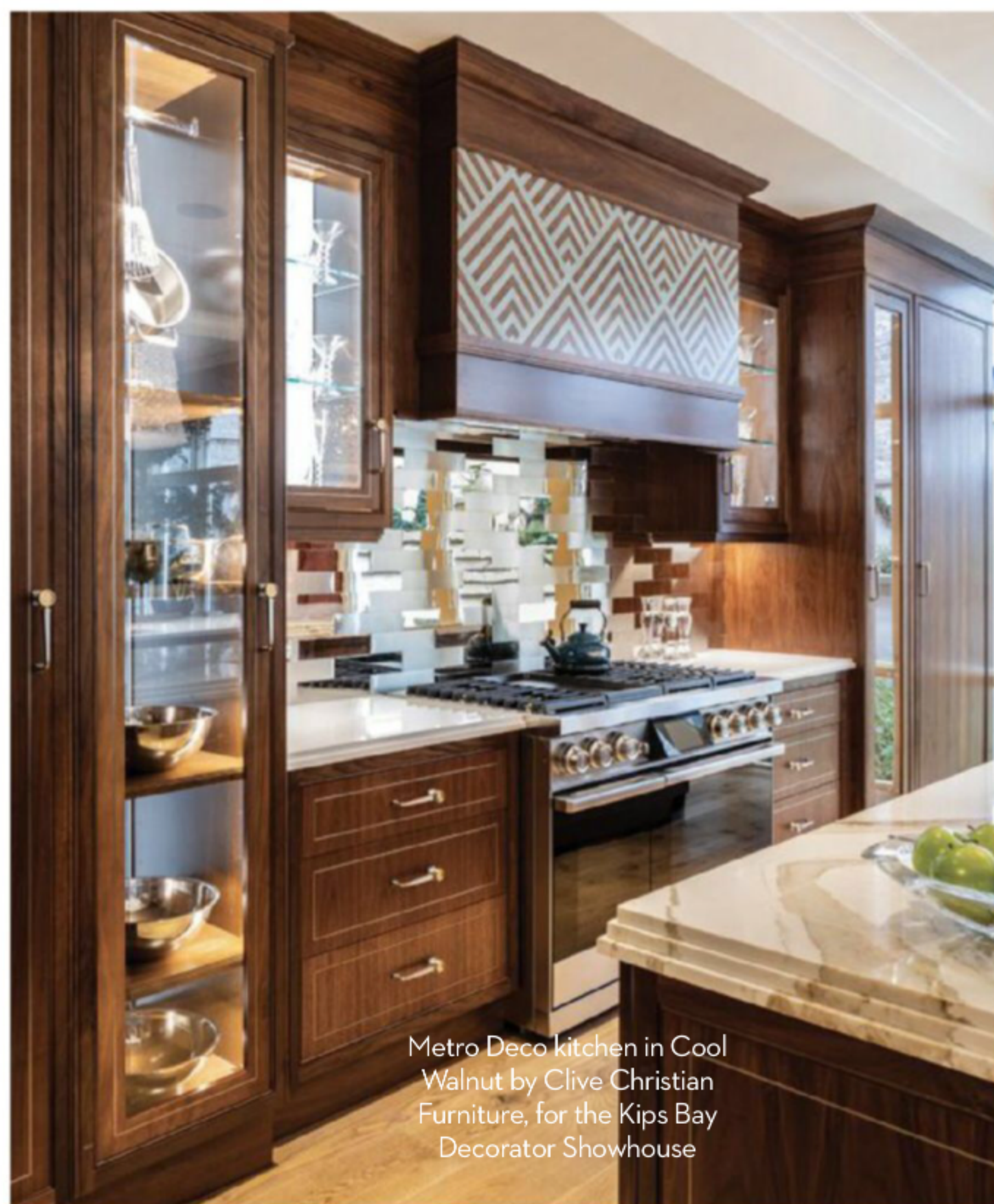
ON TOP FORM

Swap the usual suspects for surfaces that will elevate your space

Worktops, splashbacks, flooring and cabinetry make up most of your real estate in the kitchen, so it's worth exploring your design options. It's tempting to stick to neutrals when making such a sizable investment, but going off-piste can pay dividends by giving your room genuine individuality.

A big trend at the moment is patination: materials that will age and change colour over time. Ledbury Studio demonstrates this beautifully (right) with its copper-fronted cabinets. Warm-toned metallic worktops and splashbacks also fit the bill: an aged brass counter extending up the wall, for instance, would add understated bling. And if you tire of polishing it back to perfection, you can always apply a layer of clear varnish once the desired level of patination has been achieved.

There are plenty of other options too, in every imaginable colour – veined marble is not the only contender. “A worktop needs to be both tough and stylish,” says Tom Howley, maker of bespoke kitchens. “The key to this lies in choosing the right materials for the job. Silestone is a man-made compound consisting of 90% quartz. It looks fantastic, and its resilience makes it a popular choice for a worktop. Quartz is perfect for kitchens as its non-porous texture doesn't allow bacteria to ▶



Metro Deco kitchen in Cool Walnut by Clive Christian Furniture, for the Kips Bay Decorator Showhouse



Antiqued copper-fronted cabinets with a 'living' finish that will age with time. Kitchen designed by Charlie Smallbone. Kitchens from £50,000, Ledbury Studio



Bespoke, painted shaker-style kitchen with natural stone tops, walnut detail and soft close doors, from £35,000, Steven Burgess