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# 11 luxury kitchen ideas TO INSPIRE

Planning a kitchen makeover? Take a cue from these high-end design ideas to take your space to the next level, whether you choose to invest in the real thing or opt for a clever copy

WORDS RÓISÍN CARABINE

## 1 ADD AN OVERSIZED ISLAND

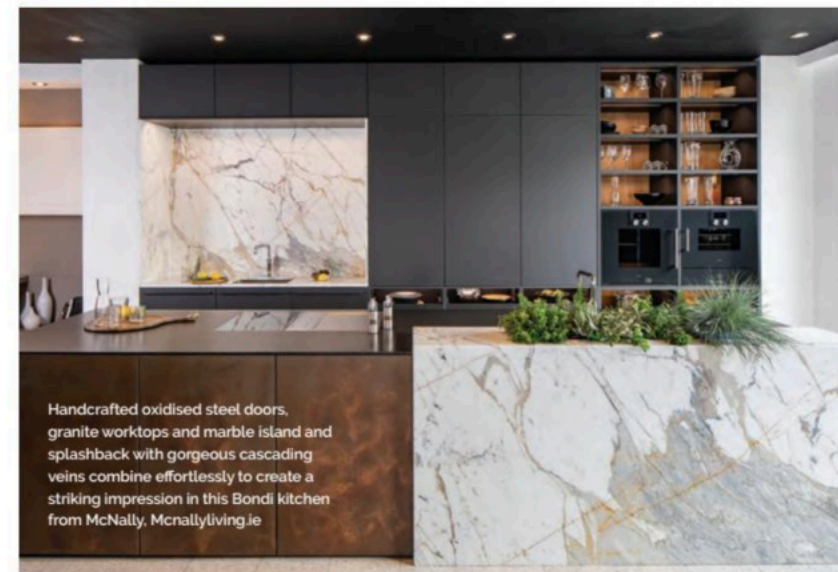
The centrepiece of most kitchens is the island. In a luxury kitchen it's the hub – typically oversized, multi-functional and thoughtfully crafted using the finest materials for maximum impact. "A monobloc style, fully clad in book-matched marble featuring a seamlessly integrated sink and cooking elements with virtually invisible, handleless drawer and cupboard storage, that opens automatically, is the ultimate luxury," says Lorraine Stevens, Lomi Design, Dublin.

N-Elle kitchen by César featuring monobloc island in grey Saint Laurent marble with leather finish and tall cabinets in a glossy Cenere lacquer, from €70,000, Lomi.ie

Hands up who doesn't love ogling over images of high-end kitchens? We're talking money-no-object spaces kitted out with bespoke cabinetry, marble surfaces (everywhere), innovative lighting, smart appliances and an oversized, statement island. I know I do.

That's why we've compiled the very best luxury kitchen designs that money can buy to help inspire your next remodel. And while we're conscious that some ideas might be beyond your budget, (a luxury kitchen can cost anywhere from €50,000 upwards – although it will probably last longer than your next car) we're confident that you'll find creative ways to make them your own.

Pen and paper at the ready, get set to take down some decorating notes...



Handcrafted oxidised steel doors, granite worktops and marble island and splashback with gorgeous cascading veins combine effortlessly to create a striking impression in this Bondi kitchen from McNally, McNallyliving.ie

## 2 TURN UP THE CONTRAST

LUXURY KITCHENS ARE ALL ABOUT THE VISUAL **DRAMA**. THE BEST WAY TO ACHIEVE THIS? FORGET MATCHY-MATCHY. JUXTAPOSING DIFFERENT MATERIALS AND **TEXTURES** WILL TAKE YOUR DESIGN TO THE NEXT LEVEL. THE KEY IS TO EDIT CAREFULLY SO THE SPACE DOESN'T FEEL OVERPOWERING. CHOOSE EXPENSIVE MATERIALS – REAL WOOD, NATURAL STONE, CONCRETE, METAL – AND MIX WITH **INTERESTING FINISHES** FOR A WELL-BALANCED LOOK. MIXING CABINET DOOR FRONTS IS A BIG TREND BUT YOU CAN ALSO TRY COMBINING DIFFERENT STYLES OF COUNTERTOPS TOO.

## 3 GOOD LIGHTING IS KEY

In a luxury kitchen lighting goes beyond the typical recessed and ceiling light; it caters to every lighting need. A well-planned scheme will include lighting under, above and inside cabinets, LED lights inside drawers, rope lighting underneath base cabinets so they look like they're floating, as well as task lights above the sink, oven and even chopping board. Feature pendant lighting over an island looks very striking and can take your kitchen to the next level.

**OFF THE WALL**  
DECORATIVE WALL LIGHTS ARE HAVING A MOMENT AS A MUST-HAVE IN THE KITCHEN



Habitat Pixie wall light, €24, Argos.ie



Pooky Stork wall light in antique brass, from €190, Pooky.com



Davey Lighting School Rise & Fall Pendants (7200) by Originalbtc, €769.90, Hickenlighting.com



## FIVE BLOW THE BUDGET IDEAS

MONEY NO OBJECT? **DAVID RAFTER**, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF ARENA KITCHENS, DUBLIN (ARENAKITCHENS.COM) SHARES HIS TOP PICKS FOR A LUXURY KITCHEN AESTHETIC

**1 EXCLUSIVITY IS KEY:** "Designer label kitchens are the ultimate status symbol; they're like the little black dress of kitchens," says David. "If you've got the cash to splash, you've got to invest in a global brand, like SieMatic, one of the most respected and established names in the world of kitchens – which Arena is the exclusive agent for in Ireland."

**2 SUPERSIZED, ZERO ZONE FRIDGES:** "Measuring 4ft wide with an aluminium and steel interior, these premium cooling fridges are sized to store *all* of your food shopping and keep it fresher for longer. Constant temperature is maintained by a unique air circulation system so cooling is much faster and more efficient than in a conventional fridge. Expect to pay from €15K upwards."

**3 CORIAN WORKTOPS:** "COVID has accelerated the trend for anti-bacterial surfaces in kitchens which makes Corian ideal. It's completely seamless and bacteria-resistant and can even be moulded to incorporate a sink and splashback for a streamlined look."

**4 BACK KITCHENS:** "For those who like to entertain but prefer to keep their main kitchen as the 'show kitchen', a back kitchen, replete with storage and appliances is essential."

**5 TOP TECH:** "Sous vide drawers, smartphone connected appliances, wireless worktops for phone charging and under counter wine chillers are all the new luxury kitchen must-haves."



Blossom Avenue's Bella Richmond made-to-measure kitchen in matt taupe is available in a choice of 36 colours and 26 styles. For local stockists Blossomavenue.co.uk

## 10 PAY ATTENTION TO THE DETAILS

As with everything in design, often it's the little things that can have the biggest impact. So put as much thought into getting the details right as you would choosing the big stuff. Going for gold on details like handles, wall sockets and taps is an easy way to elevate your kitchen's design credentials. Pay attention too to their size and shape. And don't forget the splashback. A copper or marble one is more high-end than tiles.



## 11 MAKE IT PERSONAL

Forget Pinterest and Instagram for inspiration. The very best luxury kitchens set trends, not follow them. Custom finishes on cabinetry, bespoke lighting and handmade elements all make for a unique space. This luxury Metallics Collection kitchen by Ledbury (Ledburystudio.com) features a mix of specialised finishes on door fronts and splashbacks including living copper, carved oak, gold leaf applique, antiqued mirror glass and burnished paint effects.