

BATHROOM TRENDS YOU NEED TO KNOW | WHERE TO SHOP CLOSE TO HOME

OCTOBER 2020
£4.99

KITCHENS BEDROOMS & BATHROOMS

BRITAIN'S
BEST-SELLING
KITCHEN,
BEDROOM AND
BATHROOM
MAGAZINE

the KITCHEN ISLAND

HOW TO CREATE THIS MOST-WANTED FEATURE IN YOUR SPACE

- PERFECT AS YOUR WORK-FROM-HOME SPOT AND FOR FAMILY CATCH UPS

Bedroom updates

The newest ways
to add colour & pattern
to your walls and floor

Make it yours
33+ pages of real
renovations
to add to your
moodboard

Awash with style

Find your perfect bathroom
basin and tap pairing inside



thesethreerooms.com



Kitchen islands

Need extra preparation space, a spot for friends to gather, or somewhere to flex your culinary skills? A well-designed island is the answer – we show you the different options for getting one into your space

Words: **Jill Morgan**



It's one of the most coveted kitchen features and one that tops many a renovation wishlist – the island has become something of an aspirational design. And for good reason, too. Offering more space for cooking, eating, storage and working, this unit can prove useful every day, and thanks to clever designers, there are many forms to choose from. So whether your room is vast or you have a small kitchen, consider the following ideas to see if you can achieve one in your new space. >

above The slab-style shelves are the true star of this design. Dramatically chunky and neatly echoing the lines of the overhanging work surface, it mixes style and practicality. Linear Edge, from £20,000, Harvey Jones.

left This island was designed for relaxing and dining. Overhangs on each end of the unit create two comfortable dining zones. Life Kitchens scheme start from £25,000.



Good FOR...

Households who love a large family gathering and spending hours chatting after dinner

DINING TABLE

What is it? While not strictly an island as part of the kitchen cabinetry design, this type of configuration is more like a traditional dining setup but the table is usually chosen for its functionality as a preparation area as well as for mealtimes – so materials should be tough.

How does it work? Placed in the centre of the kitchen, it functions like an island but with added comfort to sit for longer. This option offers a sociable space for all.

How to make the most of it Emphasise the versatility of this island type by opting for a more practical, utilitarian look through a solid wood table or hardwearing stone-top design. Choose your table to be in keeping with your kitchen to create the feeling that it is part of the same range. Go for matching surfaces and materials, or you could mirror colours, as well as proportions by choosing a table with legs to match the width of cabinetry upstands. Ensure there is enough room to provide seats for all the family, which is especially useful for larger households where a standard island might need to be very large to fit enough stools.

Pros This island style puts entertaining firmly in the centre of the kitchen. Generous in size, it makes sure everyone can dine in comfort and extra guests are easily accommodated.

Cons The table could create a cluttered feel if a kitchen is on the smaller side, especially if there are many chairs that can be left out. Smaller tables may look lost or out of place and provide little workable space.

Design ideas Choosing a hard-wearing yet attractive table top is key to the success of this approach, as highlighted by Charlie Smallbone, founder at Ledbury Studio. "A kitchen surface has to be practical. How does it respond to natural acids from food and drink, and will edges chip if hit by metal saucepans? I recommend various quartz solutions – look out for the term 'full-bodied'. These latest-generation engineered quartz has a high percentage of quartz bonded with polymers and are machined exactly as natural stone. Quartzite is also interesting – harder than granite and with good resistance to acid." >

Above This Real Shaker kitchen by Deval has space for an island, but the owners chose a chunky wooden table instead. It can be used to prepare food when required as well as comfortable seating. The Real Shaker kitchen starts from £12,000.