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KITCHEN STYLES

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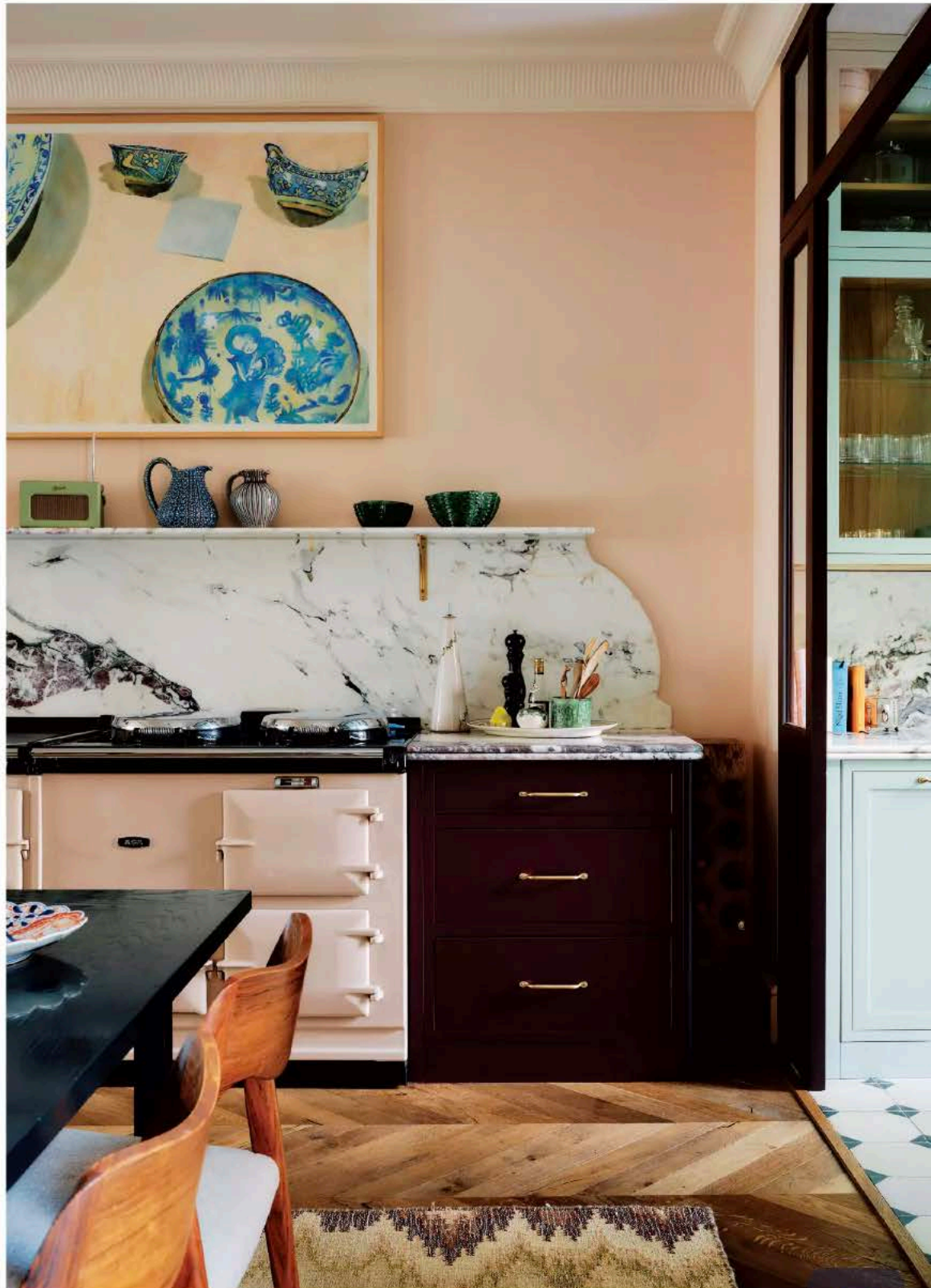


“It’s a moody mix of
farmhouse chic with
a modern twist”

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YOUR KITCHEN STYLE

Shaker, handleless, maybe both? If you're in a quandary about which look to go for, **Charlotte Luxford** reveals the factors which could help make up your mind



A grand marble splashback and custom-painted pink *Aga* take centre stage in this kitchen-diner designed by *Studio Duggan*; the Bargello rug from *Trove* by *Studio Duggan* influenced the scheme of the whole house.



right This bespoke kitchen by *Wood Works Brighton* hits that sweet spot between timeless and laid-back. With slim solid oak Shaker doors, stained to highlight the natural grain, and a three-layered sculptural, curved island topped with bold Calacatta Viola marble, it feels warm, lived-in, and effortlessly stylish. Kitchens start from £54,000.

So, you're flipping through the pages of *KBB* or scrolling on Instagram, and you've spotted... the one. Your dream kitchen has a vast, marble-topped island, with a beautiful tap and pie-crust butler sink, and it all looks so spotless and chic. Yet in reality, especially if you have young kids, that draining area is probably going to be littered with colourful plastic crockery 99% of the time. Unless you wash and dry your dishes immediately, which definitely takes some dedication.

The point I'm making is that it's vital to really think about your design aesthetic versus how you live day to day before you choose your kitchen style. If you're the kind of person that baulks at anything to do with cleaning and maintenance, then you may want to reconsider things like lots of open shelving that collects grease and dust (*trust me, I know*), or a wooden worktop that will require regular oiling. Conversely, if you're a bit of a neat freak, a breakfast cupboard or pantry hidden behind pocket or bi-fold doors that you can shut away to hide the mess will be a good idea.

Essentially, you need to ensure that what you think you want actually marries up with your lifestyle – sometimes, the end result can be surprising. "Many of our clients come in dead-set on a particular look but end up with something completely different – in a really good way," says Jamie Harding, founder of Et Lorem. According to Jamie, the key to deciding on your kitchen style is to imagine how you'll use the space and what kind of memories you want to create there.





"That's when you can end up with something unique and unexpected – for example, it's not unusual for us to be asked to create a kitchen island that can be danced upon!" adds Jamie.

This is why choosing a kitchen designer you personally resonate with is so important. You want someone who can not only translate your ideas into reality, but also open you up to possibilities you may not have considered. A good designer will spend a lot of time getting to know you – how you cook, entertain, start your mornings, spend your Sundays, etc. All of that plays into how the space needs to function, and how it should feel.

Harmonious with your home

While, of course, the kitchen design should meet your lifestyle needs, many of the designers I spoke to agree it's equally important that the style you choose is harmonious with the rest of your home's aesthetic. "The character of your home – its era, layout, and inherent personality – should always guide your decisions," says Charlie Smallbone, founder of Ledbury Studio. "A Georgian townhouse in Bath naturally calls for a very different approach than a converted warehouse in Shoreditch."





left, clockwise
Here, *Halcyon* wrapped the island in Dekton by *Cosentino's* marble-style Aura finish to create an airy space. Kitchens start from £40,000.

Modulnova kitchen from *Designspace London* with solid Pietra Grey marble island doors, Rovere Carbone wood veneer units on the side, and Titanium Grey metal wall units. Kitchens start from £35,000.

Masterclass Kitchens H-Line Sutton in Scots Grey paired with Madoc in Portland Oak. Prices start from £15,000.

right This Shaker-style kitchen includes a *Shaws of Darwen* Shaker 800 sink, £777, paired with a *Perrin & Rowe* Ionian mixer and rinse, £911.76, and Phoenician instant hot tap, £1285.08, all in nickel.



Photography Sarah Griggs



“THE CHARACTER OF YOUR HOME SHOULD GUIDE YOUR DECISIONS; A GEORGIAN TOWNHOUSE IN BATH NATURALLY CALLS FOR A DIFFERENT APPROACH THAN A CONVERTED WAREHOUSE IN SHOREDITCH”

CHARLIE SMALLBONE, FOUNDER OF LEDBURY STUDIO





“OPTING FOR A COHESIVE MIX OF TRADITIONAL AND MODERN ELEMENTS ALLOWS THE OWNER TO CREATE A TRANSITIONAL LOOK THAT WILL BE SYMPATHETIC TO ALL STYLES OF PROPERTY”

RIA PARKINSON, SALES PROMOTER FOR NEOLITH

Transitional kitchens are trending

However, these days many homeowners aren't opting for just one clear-cut style – the trend for the 'transitional' kitchen has had a huge influence on the market, and it's common practice to marry multiple styles in the kitchen, for both aesthetic and practical reasons. “Opting for a cohesive mix of traditional and modern elements allows the owner to create a transitional look that will be sympathetic to all styles of property,” says Ria Parkinson, sales promoter for Neolith.

A transitional kitchen might feature slimline Shaker-style cabinetry paired with handleless units or a reeded island, and perhaps a modern-style range cooker – I've even seen Wood Works Brighton be bold enough to actually put the range in the island, which sounds slightly bonkers, but it works.

