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# Beyond KITCHENS

Bring the hub of the home to life. Tallulah Rushaya looks at the latest colour trends, features and innovations

**K**itchens are the heart and soul of your home and investing in your kitchen means a long-lasting space that can combine a vast array of design features. Emerging trends for the year include colourful cabinetry, clever storage, and metallics. Even with minimalist designs, a kitchen can be transformed by layering with textures and materials such as wood and marble, statement lighting or vivid appliances. Whether you are in a penthouse or mews house, or have a U or L-shaped kitchen, there are additions that could make it a showstopper.

## BURST OF COLOUR

The use of bolder colours to lift the kitchen became a trend last year and is here to stay. Deep jewel tones, varying from richer blues to greens now adorn cabinets, paired with textured surfaces which radiate warmth. "The trend for darker and bold colours in the kitchen is

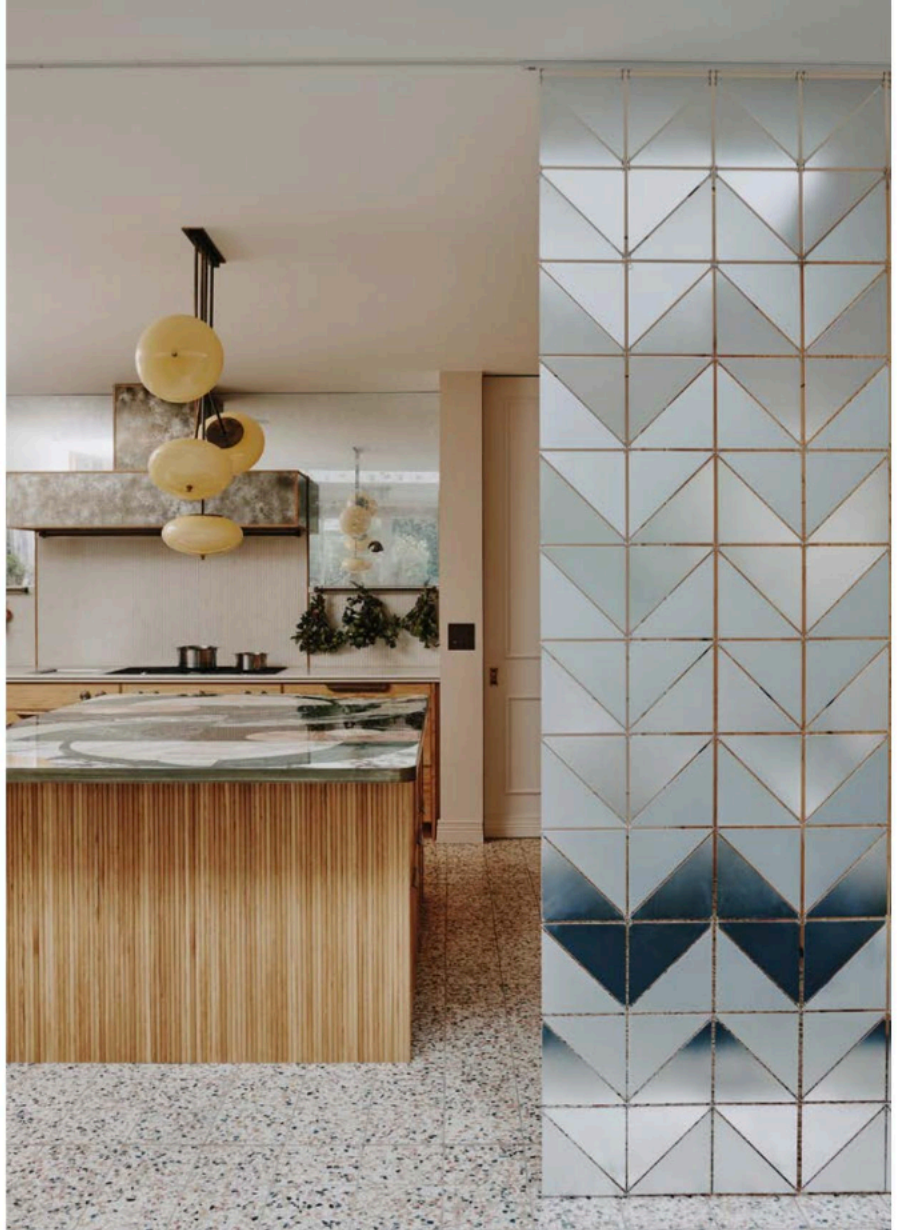


to clay. Carrara and Arabescato marble add a certain glamour to a kitchen, the smooth and tactile marble with natural veining is old Italian kitchens, it has a beautiful way of ageing and each is unique.”

### MIXED MATERIAL

Whether it is curved tables or flowing lines, one trend being revived is gracefully shaped pieces that echo the modernism or 1970s aesthetic. Along with wood, that brings naturally textured look to cabinetry or flooring with parquet styled shapes. One masterful way to have geometric shapes within the kitchen is through the island, with a fresco-styled worktop. “The show-stopping island top is a work of art by Lara Bohinc of Bohinc Studio. It’s a selection of Italian marbles, inlaid into an aged-brass edge trim, in a selection of shades that elegantly complement the muted colours throughout the rest of the kitchen. For the long runs of worktop, we specified Ambra quartz, for natural-looking veining in a hard-wearing man-made material,” says Charlie Smallbone, founder of Ledbury Studio ([ledburystudio.com](http://ledburystudio.com)).

Dada’s ‘Intersection’ kitchen from Molteni&C is described by its designer Vincent Van Duysen as “a project that plays with proportions, thickness and a mix of refined materials.” It is an example of how a kitchen can combine rich earthy palettes, while contrasting light and



shadow. Intersection is characterised by its expressiveness, that melds together sculptural and linear detail using stone like Breccia Capraia and lacquered surfaces.

Wood is another material enjoying a revival, contrasted with quartz, adds depth, especially when mixing patterns as well as material. “There is a definite appreciation of interior schemes inspired by nature – kitchen cabinetry with softer tones, often combined with woods. Also finishes are soft, whether it’s honed marble or matt tile splashbacks, current trends are definitely about using colours and materials to create a harmonising effect,” remarks Leila Touwen, co-founder Pluck Kitchens.

Finish with focussed lighting to highlight the areas where cooking takes place, and a standout lighting piece displayed over the dining table to bring an element of showstopping drama. **L**

**CRAFTSMANSHIP Above:** Intersection, the new project by Vincent Van Duysen, uses sophisticated details that highlight Dada and Molteni&C’s excellence in working with materials **Top right:** This Camden kitchen, designed by Ledbury Studio, incorporates a brushed stainless steel screen and fluted oak island