

# Design notes

News • Shopping • Home inspiration

Words: Lindsay Blair and Yvette Murrell



## Impressive update

Just one change can transform the look of a space – and none more so than updating your lighting with an on-trend style. Create a talking point in your dining area with a statement piece like the Ursula chandelier, £395 from Pooky. With brass fittings and six ironwork black lamps making up the circular design, you can be sure none of your dinner guests will be left in the dark. To complete the look, Ursula wall lights, £105 each, are also available.

[pooky.com](http://pooky.com)



## Back in style

Forget the dated avocado bathroom suites of the 1980s and take a look at Catalano's stylish 21st century version. The Colori collection of ceramic basins, WCs and bidets makes colour in the bathroom cool again and offers the opportunity to mix and match shades for a unique look. Each of the colours is inspired by nature and available in satin blue, satin grey and satin green (both shown), as well as gloss black. From £490 for a 40 x 40cm basin.

[catalano.co.uk](http://catalano.co.uk)



## Modern edge

Wickes's latest addition to its kitchen range brings a contemporary twist to a classic style. The Radley Dove Grey in-frame slab design adds a stylish new option to the brand's extensive kitchen collection, available to view in its showrooms nationwide. Finished in subtle matt grey, the Radley cabinetry provides the ideal base to add colour, pattern and texture – try matt black handles, black appliances and metallic accessories for an on-trend look.

[wickes.co.uk](http://wickes.co.uk)

## Design icon



When entertaining this festive season, impress your guests by presenting your nibbles in the latest reinvention of the classic Alvar Aalto glass collection – the 75mm Aalto bowl. The new design is a small variation on the Aalto flower-shaped bowl and vase, which rose to popularity in the 1930s thanks to the simple look contrasting with the decorative designs of the time. Each bowl is mouth blown, helping to create the organic wave-inspired shape. Available in six colours, including Rain, Sand, Emerald and Rose Gold, one bowl costs £34 from iittala.

[iittala.com](http://iittala.com)



## Designers to watch

### Who?

Design duo Justin and Hannah Floyd of Buckfastleigh, Devon, founders of Solidwool.

### What?

They created Solidwool – a strong and unique composite material – in June 2013. Think of it like fibreglass, but made with wool.

### Why?

Inspired by their hometown and the wool industry's decline, they wanted to give the material back its former value and began working with it in new ways. After three years of development, they sold their first chair (Hembury, pictured), featuring a Solidwool seat. The matching side table soon followed.

### Where?

Thanks to Justin and Hannah's recent win of the Heal's Discover 2017 campaign, Solidwool furniture is now available at Heal's. You can also keep up to date with Solidwool on Facebook and Twitter (@solidwool) or sign up to their monthly newsletter.

### Look out for...

The next generation of Solidwool technology. The duo are already working with different types of wool for different results, including coloured styles.

**Their style in three words...**  
Classic. Functional. Natural.

[solidwool.com](http://solidwool.com)



## Custom cooker

To celebrate its 95th birthday, AGA has introduced a bespoke colour-matching service. There may already be a range of 12 colourways available, but now you will be able to create a unique shade to suit your kitchen. Coated in durable coloured enamel for a lasting look, costs for the bespoke service range from an additional £500 for an AGA 60 (priced from £5695), to an additional £2000 for larger models.

[agaliving.com](http://agaliving.com)



## Shining bright

Give your bathroom the wow-factor with the new Aqualite collection, a stunning selection of bath, basin and shower mixers designed by Alberto Apostoli for Newform. One of the collection's standout pieces is the wall-mounted LED basin (shown). Its minimalist design features a rectangular frame with two push-plates to control the waterfall-like flow and temperature of the water, indicated by the colour of the band of light running between the plates as it changes from blue to red. Each mixer is priced around £669.

[newform.it](http://newform.it)



## Two for one

A must-have for those short on space – but not on style – is the Bow folding console table from John Lewis's own-brand collection, House. Created with flexible living in mind, this understated and contemporary piece works as a desk that can extend to become a dining table. Priced at £350.

[johnlewis.com](http://johnlewis.com)

3 of the best...

## Serving trays



Wyatt serving tray, £250, Ralph Lauren Home.  
[ralphlauren.co.uk](http://ralphlauren.co.uk)



Cocktail tray, £40, Biba at House of Fraser.  
[houseoffraser.co.uk](http://houseoffraser.co.uk)



Cabo oval handled tray, £135, Nambe.  
[nambeinternational.com](http://nambeinternational.com)

## Brand to watch

Arriving in the UK from across the pond is luxury interiors brand Arteriors. Founded by Mark Moussa in 1987, this design-led company offers a wide range of products including lighting, furniture and accessories made by skilled artisans from all over the world. Along with its UK launch comes Arteriors's first international showroom, based in London's Chelsea Harbour Design Centre. Here, you'll be able to find key pieces such as the Gaston console, £2453, and Genzer lamp, £1309 (both pictured).

[arteriorshome.com](http://arteriorshome.com)



## Did you know?

*A survey by furniture fittings specialist Häfele found that more than 28% of guests are most envious of a host's kitchen, compared to any other room in the house.*



## Coffee shop quality

This festive season, impress guests with barista-style after-dinner coffee made by Miele's latest freestanding design in stylish rose gold. Not only does it produce freshly-ground espresso, coffee or ristretto, but the CM5500 bean-to-cup countertop coffee machine will look great on your worktop too. The machine benefits from an integrated conical grinder for precise grinding and has room to fill two cups from a central spout. Four user profiles mean you can program your favourite beverage type, size and strength. It costs £799.

[miele.co.uk](http://miele.co.uk)

60 seconds with...



## Phil Spencer

### What's your kitchen like?

I moved into my house two years ago and although I repainted the kitchen and updated the soft furnishings, I am yet to invest in new units and appliances. The previous owner was a chef, so it is well-kitted out with plenty of prep space and technology, but a refit is definitely on the to-do list.

### What makes for good kitchen design?

A new kitchen is a big investment and can potentially add significant value to a property. But before you choose a new design, think about the type of property you have and what style would best suit it. While adding a contemporary look to a period property is possible, it's usually best to take a sympathetic approach and go for classic-style cabinetry you can modernise through your colour choice and accessories. Always consider the style and age of the property.

### Have you seen a change in what people want from a kitchen space?

When people are looking to buy a house, the kitchen is, without question, a deal breaker. As a society, we've moved towards the kitchen being the heart of the home and as family life evolves, the kitchen design has to evolve, too. While open-plan living may be popular, when you're planning a space think about how this will work for your family in years to come. For example, the need for keeping an eye on the kids while you're cooking is likely to evolve into them wanting a snug area for TV and games as they get older, while you entertain or relax with friends. Think about the possibility of zones early on, to ensure the practicality of the design lasts.

### What trends are you keeping an eye on?

I really like matt-finish units, worktops and ironmongery, which I am starting to see more of. I'm very used to seeing gloss kitchens in houses, which are easy to maintain and look clean, but I predict the matt styles will be big news in the next 12 months.

**Phil Spencer is working with Wickes to launch four new kitchen ranges.**

[wickes.co.uk](http://wickes.co.uk)



## Masterchef style

Introduce the impeccable standards of a restaurant kitchen to your home with designs co-created by world-renowned Michelin-starred chef and TV presenter Michel Roux Jr. He has collaborated with British kitchen manufacturer Moores on a stunning range of designs, created with the demands of a professional kitchen in mind. Making sure every inch of space has a purpose, you can choose from deep drawers with integrated organisation and lighting, floor-to-ceiling larders and a selection of coordinating deep-set sinks and taps. The range comes in eight neutral finishes, including Nouvel Light Teal and Loire Sand Oak (shown), and costs from £30,000 including appliances.

[moores.co.uk](http://moores.co.uk)

## Brand lowdown: Sheridan

### Known for...

Luxury bedding and textiles designed to add small indulgent touches to a home – from high thread count duvet covers and Egyptian cotton towels to table linens and decorative accessories.

### The story...

Founded in Australia in the late 1960s by Italian-born Claudio Alcorso, the Sheridan brand launched in the UK more than 30 years ago. Its cross-continental history began with Claudio learning the art of textile design while working in his family fabric printing business. He took his knowledge and understanding of quality, and the belief that everyone should have access to beautiful art and design, and emigrated to Sydney where the first Sheridan store opened in 1967. Fifty years on, the ethos of introducing creative thought and beauty into everyday items is still going strong.

### Shop...

At the boutique store on King's Road, Chelsea or in House of Fraser and Debenhams. View the full collection at [sheridanaustralia.co.uk](http://sheridanaustralia.co.uk)

### Don't miss...

The limited edition collection of bedding designed by Australian artist Ken Done, featuring striking painterly effects and bright colour. The range represents a modern retrospective of a 1980s collaboration with the artist. Back then it sold out immediately, thanks to its bold, colourful design that stood out amongst the mostly white bedding favoured at the time.

### Follow...

@Sheridan\_UK

[sheridanaustralia.co.uk](http://sheridanaustralia.co.uk)



# Trend alert: Black



1 Limited Edition Artisan Black Tie stand mixer, £849, Kitchen Aid. [kitchenaid.co.uk](http://kitchenaid.co.uk) 2 Back to Black Vamp vinyl flooring, £70 per sq m, Amtico. [amtico.com](http://amtico.com)  
 3 Copper Bateau bath in charcoal, from £5000, Catchpole & Rye. [catchpoleandrye.com](http://catchpoleandrye.com) 4 KLF04 variable temperature kettle, £150, Smeg. [smeguk.com](http://smeguk.com)  
 5 Stitched geometric cushion, £25, Marks & Spencer. [marksandspencer.com](http://marksandspencer.com) 6 Luanda 1 pendant light, £84, Dar Lighting. [darlighting.co.uk](http://darlighting.co.uk)



## Cool updates

Best known for its range cookers and speciality ovens, Italian brand Bertazzoni has launched its first cooling appliance – a French-door fridge-freezer. With an impressive total capacity of 523 litres, the fridge has six foldable shelves and uses a dual air-cooling system to help keep different foods fresh, while two full-width freezer drawers sit beneath. What's more, you can pick a style to suit you – choose from the sleek Professional (shown), classic Master or more traditional Heritage. Priced from £2199.

[bertazzoni.com](http://bertazzoni.com)



## Did you know?

*When designing your new kitchen, make sure you plan for your appliances. According to a recent study by online electronics retailer Reichelt Elektronik, households only have four plug sockets per room on average, but the demand for more plugs is rapidly increasing.*

[reichelt.co.uk](http://reichelt.co.uk)



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# Showroom showcase: Smeg

## What's new?

The Italian luxury appliance manufacturer has launched its first UK flagship store in the heart of London. The state-of-the-art showroom, which took four years to plan, promises to offer you an experiential visit that's more than simply shopping for appliances. You also get the chance to peruse the brand's range of cheese, wine and vinegar produced at its Italian farm, plus sample a complimentary coffee from Smeg's machines. Set over three floors and 6400 sq ft, the showroom also features London's largest single-pane glass window.

## Where is it?

Hop off the Tube at Piccadilly Circus and find the showroom at 14 Regent Street, between Piccadilly and Pall Mall. Housed in the restored St James's Market, the store is ideally located as the starting point for a trip into the West End.

## Why go?

Apart from the food and drink offerings, including a cooking demonstration theatre in the basement, the spacious showroom features Smeg's extensive range of colourful small and large appliances. A mezzanine level, overlooking the ground floor, is home to the design lounge where you can put together your ideal appliance selection.

Don't miss

The brand's limited edition and iconic designs, such as the famed Dolce & Gabbana collection which includes individually hand-painted fridges, kettles and toasters.

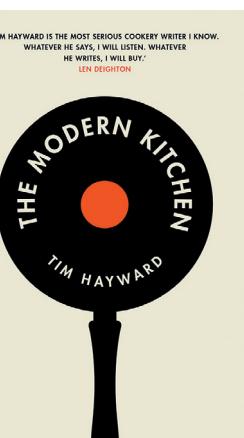
[smequk.com](http://smequk.com)



Photography: Martin Hobby

## ON THE FUTURE KITCHEN

A red circular logo with a white asterisk (\*) at the top and the words "TOP READ" in white capital letters at the bottom.



# The Modern Kitchen by Tim Hayward

How many utensils and gadgets are stashed away in your kitchen cupboards? We bet quite a few, but do you know the origins of those everyday essentials? In *The Modern Kitchen*, acclaimed food writer and broadcaster Tim Hayward takes a closer look at the history, aesthetics and functionality of 70 carefully selected pieces – from the humble wooden chopping board to the lemon squeezer. A great blend of interesting information and a dash of nostalgia make this title great as a gift or as an addition to your bookshelf. Priced £20, Quadrille.

## Natural wonder

Ian Mankin's latest collection, Perth, is the British fabric manufacturer's most extensive to date. It features 40 subtle colourways using flecked yarn in a beautifully textured weave. Versatile and durable, this fabric can be used to cover chairs, cushions and even lampshades. Each piece is made from 100% natural fibres woven at Ian Mankin's family-owned Lancashire mill. Prices start from £49.50 per m.  
[ianmankin.co.uk](http://ianmankin.co.uk)

ianmankin.co.uk



# Stately sideboards

No open-plan kitchen is complete without a sideboard, here are some of the most glamorous ones out there



Alveara brass and antique mirror sideboard, £699.99, My Furniture.  
[my-furniture.co.uk](http://my-furniture.co.uk)



Aspen large sideboard, £929, Cult Furniture.  
[cultfurniture.com](http://cultfurniture.com)



Bonaldo Shade sideboard in blue, £3710, Go Modern.  
[gomodern.co.uk](http://gomodern.co.uk)



Shamsian Nizwa three-door sideboard, £8400, Bethan Gray.  
[bethangray.com](http://bethangray.com)



Liang & Eimil Noma sideboard, £1778, Houseology.  
[houseology.com](http://houseology.com)



Toshi sideboard, £699, Atkin & Thyme.  
[atkinandthyme.co.uk](http://atkinandthyme.co.uk)



Umberto brass sideboard, £1150, Graham & Green.  
[grahamandgreen.co.uk](http://grahamandgreen.co.uk)



Berlin four-door console, £3450, Jonathan Adler.  
[jonathanadler.com](http://jonathanadler.com)



Ziggy sideboard in brass, £599, Swoon Editions.  
[swooneditions.com](http://swooneditions.com)

# Statement mirrors

Our pick of the latest super-stylish designs for your bedroom that will make you do a double take



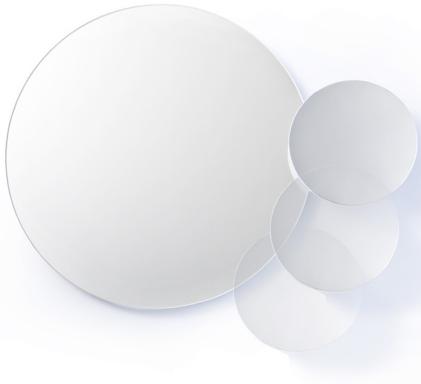
Hexagonal shelf mirror, £149, Marks & Spencer.  
[marksandspencer.com](http://marksandspencer.com)



Petite Friture Francis wall mirror, £312, Nest.  
[nest.co.uk](http://nest.co.uk)



Nappa wall mirror, £45, Oliver Bonas.  
[oliverbonas.com](http://oliverbonas.com)



Eclipse wall mirror by Wireworks, £130, Black by Design. [black-by-design.co.uk](http://black-by-design.co.uk)



Spectre wall mirror, £149, Very.  
[very.co.uk](http://very.co.uk)



Large pineapple mirror, £55, Raj Tent Club.  
[rajtentclub.com](http://rajtentclub.com)

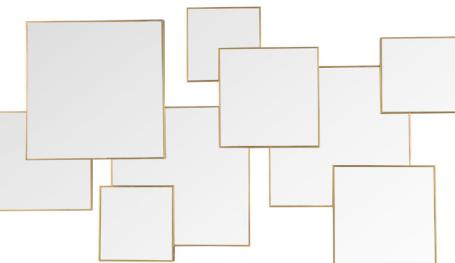


Words: Yvette Murrell

Gray & Willow whitewash mirror with shelf, £165, House of Fraser. [houseoffraser.co.uk](http://houseoffraser.co.uk)



Hartô Modest wall mirror, £229, Connex.  
[connex.co.uk](http://connex.co.uk)



Lexi fragmented mirror in gold metal, £120, Maisons du Monde. [maisonsdumonde.com](http://maisonsdumonde.com)

# Winged dining chairs

It's time to dine in retro style, as this trend is here to stay – we've rounded up our favourites



Fritz Hansen Series 7 chair in Monochrome, £349, Nest. [nest.co.uk](http://nest.co.uk)



Wishbone chair in beech citrus and white, £620, The Conran Shop. [conranshop.co.uk](http://conranshop.co.uk)

EDITOR'S  
PICK



Hans Wegner The U Chair in oak and black leather, £499, John Lewis. [johnlewis.com](http://johnlewis.com)



Manta chair by De La Espada, £912, Heal's. [heals.com](http://heals.com)



Laura dining chair, £129, Ross & Brown. [rossandbrownhome.co.uk](http://rossandbrownhome.co.uk)



Saint Tropez chair by Archirivolto, £187, Calligaris. [calligaris.co.uk](http://calligaris.co.uk)



Ellen dining chair, £1656, Essential Home. [essentialhome.eu](http://essentialhome.eu)



Darwin chair in Joseph Frank's Primavera, £525, Cheeky Chairs. [cheekychairs.com](http://cheekychairs.com)



Willow chair, £325, Joined + Jointed. [joinedandjointed.com](http://joinedandjointed.com)