

real living

STRESS-FREE DECORATING
FOR A LAIDBACK INTERIOR

YOUR
KITCHEN
RULES

COOL STYLE UPDATES AND
EASY WEEKEND PROJECTS

267

NEW BUYS

CHAIRS, MIRRORS,
LAMPS & RUGS

ART!

SHOP IT STYLE IT LOVE IT

EAST MEETS WEST

the look

A few years ago, Japandi emerged as an interiors trend and it's here to stay. This style mixes warm Scandi minimalism with the Japanese principle of wabi-sabi, and here, interior designer Louise Liljenrantz interprets the look with refined lines and natural materials, such as stained oak wood and marbled Portuguese limestone. She describes it as "a blend of Downton Abbey and Japan".



DREAM CUISINE

Showcasing the latest kitchen looks, these five distinct designs are packed with practical ideas and stylish inspiration to steal

text lindy crabb | photography courtesy of kvánum



1

The repetition of clean shelf lines and slim, rounded wall tiles makes the space feel taller. Bonus: this open shelving is multifunctional because it can be reconfigured.

2

This style favours function and form over ornate details. For example, the cupboard door handles are built into and concealed by the elegant frames.

3

Japandi spaces are neutral, but warm and inviting. Here, tactile curtains, timber and a black built-in nubuck seat counteract the concrete floors. ->



THE BRASS SECTION



the look

You'd think that brass kitchen doors and drawers would look OTT, but if you stick to streamlined silhouettes and dial down the details, the result is stunning. Take these Custom Fronts brass-faced doors on birch ply. The handle-less flat panels have a seamless, satin finish that feels industrial, luxe and modern. Because the other surfaces are matte, this look has a wow-factor that's not overwhelming.

1

If brass cabinets aren't your style, consider tapware in polished brass. This sort of finish requires upkeep, but a statement mixer will make doing the dishes feel far more chic.

2

Satin-finish brass doors develop a patina over time (which can disguise finger marks). If you prefer the original shiny sheen, simply keep the brass polished.

3

Pink may be a quirky colour choice, but when it's paired with brass, this rosy hue feels sophisticated rather than retro. A pink splashback will achieve the same result. →

photography sarah weal, courtesy of custom fronts | styling emma harris

NAVY AND NEUTRAL

the look

A classic-style kitchen with navy joinery is the epitome of elegance, though these cupboards by Plain English will also suit country and Hamptons-style homes. The key to mastering this look is choosing the right shade. Almost black can be jarring, too light can feel beachy. Balance is also key – navy paint works here because it's brightened with brass accessories and white marble.



1

A bright space lit with natural light will add depth to this hue, and the combination of light herringbone floors, white walls and navy joinery is a match made in style heaven!

2

The design of this joinery was inspired by 18th century Georgian style. Paired with classic hardware, it's the perfect canvas for a statement paint colour.

3

Painting the window frames is a clever way to add colour to a room and will make bare walls pop. Use the same hue on the trims to tie it all together. →

photography courtesy of plain english kitchens



the look

When it comes to wallpaper, why should living rooms have all the fun? Function and flair work in equal measure in this compact kitchen by Kate Challis Interiors. Don't be put off by the layers of visual texture. Here, the lavish wall print, statement pendant and door handles are tempered by traditional design elements and a muted palette. Our advice? Pick the wallpaper first, then add decor that won't compete.

1

This wallpaper proves a graphic print can be gentle on the eye. The dreamy scene and soft colours visually open up the space and add dimension.

2

The flat panel doors create seamless symmetry to allow for experimental style choices. Disguising appliances behind custom doors is a smart way to minimise visual clutter, too.

3

Statement lighting can make a kitchen feel like a living space. Here, the pendant light anchors the dining zone. Or try a trio of pendants above an island.

interior design | katechallis
photography | sharyn cairns

VISUAL ARTS

NORDIC BY NATURE

the look

This is a great example of soulful Nordic style because the timber's natural beauty isn't overcrowded by lots of other elements. The knotted oak joinery, which is by KBH Københavns Møbelsnedkeri, is accented by brass hardware while a rug and decorative storage add texture. The design is simple, but the effect has such warmth even with the cooler white-tiled walls and floor.



1

Do metal fixtures belong in natural spaces? Yes, but choose finishes with less lustre. The aged patina on the taps and kitchen handles complements the wood grain.

2

Natural light can take a white palette from austere to warm and welcoming. Sheer curtains and blinds that temper the brightness make all the difference.

3

Marble benchtops and timber joinery create a timeless contrast. The oak's rustic tones and the marble's soft vein are a restrained, elegant combo. ●

photography gyrithe lemche; courtesy of kbh københavns møbelsnedkeri | styling mette bonavent