

Living **etc**

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Modern interiors

36 pages of genius ideas for your home

THE HOTTEST
KITCHEN LOOK
COLOUR, PATTERN
AND FUNCTION

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FLOORING

BOUDOIR
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STYLE
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DECORATE
WITH GREEN
EMBRACE SPRING'S
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Elegant



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Four steps to THE PERFECT INDIVIDUAL KITCHEN

Create a space that's as beautiful as it is efficient with tips from design experts

1 BE INSPIRED
Think about how you want your kitchen to look, be it modern industrial, cool and contemporary or even a little bit rustic chic. Lots of restaurants have well-designed, kitchen-like interiors with bags of personality, so if you see something you like, make

a note of the surfaces, materials or accessories that work well together. Collect images and tear sheets and pull together a scrapbook or mood board. 'You can even base your scheme around something as simple as a pretty plate, a tile, a piece of furniture or a scrap of fabric,' says Charlotte Hill-Baldwin at John Lewis

Of Hungerford. 'This can be a great starting point for choosing a theme or colour palette.' Don't worry too much about the cost at this point – just focus on things that inspire you and soon you'll be able to identify styles you're drawn to, which will help you form a basis for your scheme.

2 CONSIDER YOUR SPACE
The way people use their kitchens has changed immeasurably over the past few years. 'Kitchens have evolved from a purely functional back room to a much more frequently used or family-orientated space,' says architect Richard Blandy at Stiff + Trevillion. 'Often, the line between the kitchen and the living room is blurred and, as a result, people are using more comfortable and better-quality



A quirky, sunshine-yellow light fitting adds a burst of colour to this elegant kitchen. For similar, head to Pitfield. The kitchen is by Chamber Furniture.



Add pattern to a plain kitchen with graphic wallpaper. For a selection of similar wallpapers, try Timorous Beasties. Pantone chairs in 01 Basic Dark, £200.40 each, Vitra.

materials.' With this in mind, think about the ways in which you can include seating and dining areas that will allow you to incorporate upholstery, and different textures and materials, to create a warmer, more relaxing and inviting scheme.

3 DON'T FORGET FUNCTION
Though the colours, materials and fittings are what will give your kitchen its personality, the room will still need to be planned from a functional point of view. This is where consulting a professional designer can be invaluable, as they will have the knowledge and experience to help you make the most of your space. Not only that, but they will be able to advise you on what appliances and other fixtures and fittings will work for you. There's no point investing in a