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TOP CLASS

The kitchen worktop needs to be tough enough to withstand whatever you can throw at it and still stay stylish.

A kitchen worktop needs to be tough enough to withstand whatever you can throw at it and still stay stylish. It's a common-sense requirement, but it's also a design challenge. The worktop is the heart of the kitchen, and it's the one surface that's most likely to be damaged. So, when you're choosing a worktop, you need to think about the materials and the finish. Some materials are more durable than others, and some finishes are more resistant to stains and scratches. But the most important thing is to choose a worktop that you love. After all, you'll be looking at it every day, and it's the one surface that's most likely to be damaged. So, when you're choosing a worktop, you need to think about the materials and the finish. Some materials are more durable than others, and some finishes are more resistant to stains and scratches. But the most important thing is to choose a worktop that you love. After all, you'll be looking at it every day, and it's the one surface that's most likely to be damaged.



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HOT
BATHROOM
TREND ALERT

HOTEL LUXURY

*Make the perfect reservation at home
with a five-star, hotel-inspired bathroom.*





—————→ Don't mix too many different finishes, as this style is about high-class simplicity." If you are aiming for real luxury, consider commissioning a matching, tiled vanity unit or worktop with a washbowl.

"Keep in mind that this isn't a cheap option, as to cover the vanity in tiles and sealing it properly against water requires precision and technical skills. Off-the-shelf vanity units in darker colours can be the more budget-friendly option for your hotel-inspired bathroom refurb," adds Sonia.

If a spa-style bathroom is your aim, Barrie Cutchie, design director at BC Designs, recommends harnessing natural materials and neutral colour palettes.

"An instant way of creating a spa bathroom in your own home is to install a freestanding bath as a way of creating a main focal point that instantly draws your eye... To really set it apart, consider placing it in the centre of the room or away from other sanitary ware."

And don't forget those mood-setting accessories. "While a bath should play centre stage, it is brought to life with smaller details including luxurious toiletries, ambient candles and relaxing-smelling fragrances that add those all-important finishing touches," says Barrie. "If you've centred your bath in the middle of the room, consider adding a side table or in-built shelves as a way of ensuring the essentials are at hand." —————→

Gleneagles' grandeur is complemented by Drummonds' Double Lowther vanity basin in this en-suite bathroom, designed by Ennismore, at the world-renowned hotel. Hand-cut with detailed moulding, including integrated soap dishes, its deep and spacious tops are made from china, which have been hand-poured to ensure a unique finish, while the veins of the Arabescato marble nod beautifully to the black floor tiles. This centrepiece blends in superbly in this Art deco-inspired décor, defined by smart panelled walls, a pair of oversized mirrors and a decorative pendant light. Double Lowther vanity basin in Antique Brass finish with Arabescato marble, from £7,140; The Coll, china lever, 3-hole basin mixer, from £1,170; 4-bar, floor-mounted towel rail; from £2,505. drummonds-uk.com