



ARCOS IN BRONZE

Schmidt
Tel: 07904 275 601
www.homedesign.schmidt

This Schmidt Arcos kitchen in White features metallic accents throughout thanks to a 600mm statement Oxid Bronze door, concealing a tall larder unit at the back of the kitchen, and a matching Oxid Bronze laminate finish around the sink on the worktop. The cupboard doors in the island open to reveal inner drawers and are opened using Blum's Tip-On push-to-open system

A TOUCH OF LUXE

How homeowners are continuing to embrace the ongoing trend for metallic finishes in the kitchen

Words **Danielle Lett**



ELEGANT ALTHIA

Abode
Tel: 01226 283 434
www.abode.eu

Abode's Althia tap, shown here in Brushed Brass, is available in seven finishes, and its sleek, contoured spout boasts a simple yet elegant design. The slim, single-lever handle makes it easy to use just one finger to control water flow and temperature. It is shown here alongside the Xcite One Bowl in Black

Last year, the kitchen industry saw a surge in the popularity of metallic accents being used. A year on, this trend shows no signs of slowing down anytime soon. Charlie Smallbone, founder of Ledbury Studio, says: "Metallics came to the forefront in kitchens last year and I see this continuing for some time yet." But which metals are making the biggest impact and how are they being used?

"Bold metallic accents have become more popular as homeowners become more adventurous in terms of design ideas in the home," says Caple's product manager, Luke Shipway. "This has enabled kitchen designers to embrace the trend and they're even introducing mixed metals within the same hub of the home."

Shades in particular that have seen a rise in demand in the kitchen include warmer shades such as gold, with sales director at Aga Rangemaster James Cunningham saying: "We anticipate a growing trend for warm, metallic colours such as coppers or golds, which add a touch of luxury to kitchen design."

As an alternative, darker metallics are also gaining momentum – ideal for homeowners who don't want gold or brass, but still want to embellish their kitchen with a shade that isn't chrome. "Gold, copper and brass have already struck a chord with consumers but we're seeing particular interest in the darker metallic finishes of gunmetal and smokey mirror metallic at the moment," says Franke's communications manager Jeanette Ward.

Whether homeowners prefer to opt for warmer shades or cooler tones, there's enough

choice on the market to please all, allowing for the ultimate in kitchen personalisation. "All of these options bring an instantly recognisable and sophisticated dynamic to the kitchen and give consumers the chance to find a look that feels right for them," adds Bertazzoni UK and Eire's managing director, Maurizio Severgnini.

A 'less is more' approach is favoured by many industry experts, who suggest that metallic accents are best used when focused on one area of the kitchen, creating a subtle yet stunning focal point. Director of Eggersmann UK Daniel Bowler says of metallic accents such as brass to "limit their use to an island or splashback for visual impact". Charlie Smallbone similarly

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Daryl Southwell, national sales manager, The 1810 Company

adds: "What's important is that the metallics used are not just there for the sake of it or because they add a bit of design edge. They must be executed properly."

One kitchen essential in particular has become a core staple in the metallic trend, with Abode's marketing manager Leanne Adamson noticing how taps are now available in a wider range of shades and finishes. "Until recently, kitchen tap finishes other than chrome in the modern setting and perhaps gold for a traditionally-styled space haven't really been available," she says. "However, modern metallic finishes are now a popular way of adding warmth and luxury to the kitchen, turning the sink area into a focal point."

Manufacturers such as Insinkerator have taken note, having released its hot water tap in metallic shades such as Rose Gold and Brushed Gold, giving homeowners the opportunity to have a tap that fits in with the rest of their kitchen. "The Brushed Gold finish of the L Shape 3N1 complements ▶

REFLECTIVE ARTWORKS TILES

Original Style
Tel: 01132 310 218

www.tilesandmosaics.co.uk
This ceramic Half Tile from Original Style's Artworks range is available from Ceramique Internationale. The 152 x 75mm subway tile comes in a range of gloss colours including Gold and Platinum (pictured). Incredibly versatile and highly reflective, Platinum will provide an extra dimension wherever it's installed – bouncing light around the kitchen and making it look bigger



► natural tones, while adding warmth to a white or grey kitchen,” says Insinkerator’s Europe and Russia marketing communications manager, Anna Kaarlela. “The Rose Gold finish of the J Shape 3N1 adds a soft pink hue to the kitchen that works equally well in both modern and traditional kitchen settings.”

This love of luxe in the kitchen extends beyond the likes of appliances and taps, with surfaces and cabinetry also experiencing a metallic boost. “From worktops to shelving, metallic finishes will be a big trend in the kitchen this year, combining brilliantly with other trending materials such as stone and timber for an industrial-inspired look,” says Daniel Bowler.

Similarly, tiles are a popular way to give your kitchen that much sought-after shine, with Peter Vann, director of Ceramique Internationale, saying: “Metallic tiles have long been popular in the kitchen as their reflective surfaces create focal points and can make spaces appear bigger.” He continues: “As technology has progressed, we are seeing metallic effects used in different ways – for example in combination with stone textures, or as hints within marbles and other patterns. We are also seeing the spectrum of metallic colours expand beyond silver and gold – with platinum, copper, zinc and iron finishes becoming more prevalent.”

Scaling it down even further, finer touches such as handles and hinges on cabinetry can also be given the metallic treatment, complementing an array of materials and shades in a homeowner’s kitchen. “Metallics are a must in the kitchen if you want your space to feel expensive and timeless,” says Massimo Minale, founder of Buster + Punch. “The use of solid metal handles and hinges can give your cabinetry the finishing touches that ensure it feels well put together,” he adds.

With near enough every aspect of the kitchen available in a metallic option, does the future look bright for this eye-catching accent?

Daryl Southwell, national sales manager for The 1810 Company, thinks so. He says: “We anticipate that the current demand for metallic finishes will be a lasting trend for the year ahead and, as such, we will continue to develop our product ranges and innovations accordingly.” Charlie Smallbone agrees, adding: “Metals in the kitchen that look good have a reason to be there, and will last.” ■



UNIQUE SLABS

Eggersmann
Tel: 02070 789 640
www.eggersmann.com

Reacting with the elements over time, the material of Eggersmann’s Unique Solid Brushed Brass door will develop a natural patina. It can be used for worktops, is scratch-, acid- and heat-resistant, and is easy to clean and care for. The dimensions are bespoke per kitchen, but the maximum size for a 3mm-thick slab is 2980 x 1480mm. It is shown alongside Eggersmann’s Bianco Nuvola Quartz stone on the countertops and sides



MODERN SERIES OVEN

Bertazzoni
Tel: 01244 987 366 uk.bertazzoni.com

Bertazzoni’s 60cm electric built-in Modern Series oven has an A++ energy-efficiency rating, an oven volume of 76 litres and 11 oven functions including bake, convection bake, convection, turbo grill, defrost and proofing. With soft-closing doors, a single-point food probe, hydro cleaning and anti-fingerprint technology, it is available in Stainless Steel, Matt Black, Zinc and Copper, pictured



FRENCH DOORS

Caple
Tel: 01179 381 900 www.caple.co.uk

Caple’s French door CAFF45GM fridge freezer in Gunmetal features four compartments. One can be used as an additional fridge or freezer – touch the LED display to choose. It has a maximum noise-level rating of 46dB – suitable for an open-plan kitchen – and an energy-efficiency rating of A+. With a 362 litre fridge capacity and 164 litres in the freezer, super freeze and super cool functions enable food to reach their desired temperature quickly. A multi-air-flow design ensures an even temperature so everything is stored at the right temperature and food will last longer



ACTIVE PLUS

Franke
Tel: 01614 366 280
www.franke.co.uk

Franke’s Active Plus Pull-Out Spray tap range is available in four metallic finishes – Matt Black, Smokey Mirror, Brass and Graphite (pictured), in addition to Chrome. The single-lever tap is 310mm high with a spout reach of 236mm. It features a nozzle that extends 550mm and rotates a full 360°, making it ideal for rinsing, washing and for use with multi-bowl sinks

CONTEMPORARY MIAMI

Reginox
Tel: 01260 280 033 www.reginox.co.uk

Miami sinks from Reginox feature a clean and contemporary angular design, softened by a small 10mm radius, and are offered as either a square 400 x 400mm or rectangular 500 x 400mm bowl. Suitable for either undermounting or integrating, the sinks are available in three on-trend and versatile colours – Gold, Gunmetal and Copper, pictured. Manufactured from stainless steel, they are treated with PVD technology to give them a unique, eye-catching finish that will add dynamism to the kitchen



KNURLED FINIRE

The 1810 Company
Tel: 01978 660 770
www.the1810company.co.uk

The Finire tap from The 1810 Company is a contemporary design and is available in Chrome, Brushed Steel, Copper, Gunmetal and Gold Brass finish, pictured. It features knurled detail on the control, base and end of spout and is supplied with a Neoperl Aerator to provide an even and consistent flow



VERDI ISLAND HOOD

AirUno
Tel: 01132 012 240 www.airuno.co.uk

The Verdi island hood from AirUno is shown here in Anthracite with a Black Glass finish. It delivers effective extraction, at a maximum rate of 765m³/h, and is A energy-efficiency rated. With a noise level-rating of 47-69dB, the Verdi island hood features an energy-efficient LED strip light along the length of its underside, and four speed settings that are operated via the hood’s soft touch control panel



“Bold metallic accents have become more popular as homeowners become more adventurous in terms of design ideas in the home”

Luke Shipway, product manager, Caple



Caple’s product manager Luke Shipway divides metallics into two categories, with each having its own unique appeal

1 “Soft, reflective metals such as copper and gold will instantly create a sophisticated yet warm glow in the home”

2 “Other cooler metals, such as gunmetal and stainless steel, make the perfect choice for those who are looking for a more understated finish with stylish appeal”

INDUSTRIAL ORTA

Smeg
Tel: 03445 579 907
www.smeguk.com

Smeg’s single-lever Orta tap benefits from an industrial look, thanks to its Matt Black pull-out hose spray. Shown here in Copper, it has a single-lever control, pull-out hose spray, aerator and a minimum water pressure of 0.7 bar



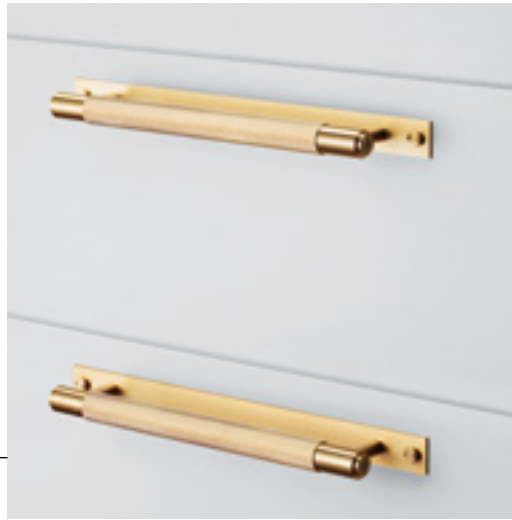
PULL BAR HANDLE

Buster + Punch

Tel: 02074 070 888

www.busterandpunch.com

This pull bar handle from Buster + Punch is made from solid brass and features a diamond-cut, cross knurl pattern. The pull bar includes a rectangular backplate made from solid brass and finished with brass penny buttons. Buster + Punch's pull bars come in three other finishes – Black, Smoked Bronze and Steel, and three sizes – small (200mm), medium (300mm) and large (400 mm)



INTENSE DUAL-LEVER TAP

Rangemaster

Tel: 01159 464 000

www.rangemastersinks.co.uk

The Intense dual-lever tap from Rangemaster has a contemporary design for the latest modern kitchens, thanks to its crisp outline and elegant swan-neck design. Shown here in Brushed Copper, it comes in an array of additional finishes – Matt Black, Graphite, Brushed Nickel and Chrome. It has quarter-turn handles, which provide precise flow control, while flexible pipes are supplied as standard for quick and simple installation

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Charlie Smallbone, founder, Ledbury Studio



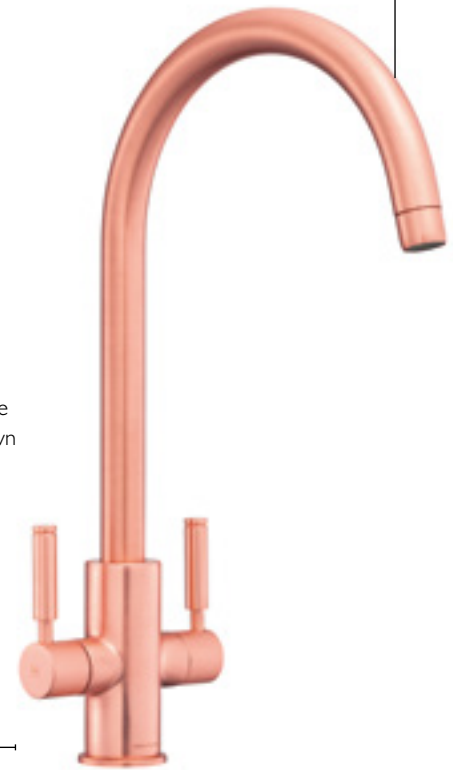
METALLICS COLLECTION

Ledbury Studio

Tel: 02075 666 794

www.ledburystudio.com

This bespoke kitchen from Ledbury Studio features an array of metallic finishes throughout, including pewter cupboard units along the top above the ovens, and a bespoke splashback shown in an effect called *verre églomisé*, where pure silver leaf is applied to the reverse of toughened glass and antiqued. The island's cupboard fronts are zinc, welded into a stainless steel frame. The stainless steel handles throughout have been blasted to dull the shine and darken their appearance



3NI HOT TAP

InSinkErator

Tel: 01923 297 881

insinkerator.emerson.com/en-gb

Available in either an L shape or J shape, InSinkErator's 3NI steaming hot water tap instantly dispenses filtered steaming hot water, alongside regular hot and cold water. The 3NI eliminates the time lost waiting for the kettle to boil, saves valuable worktop space and comes with the NeoTank, a compact water tank of 2.5 litres that takes up little cupboard space. The innovative NeoTank features an adjustable digital thermostat, enabling users to set the desired temperature of the water in the tank from 88°C to 99°C. The L shape tap is available in finishes of Anthracite, Brushed Gold, Brushed Steel, Polished Chrome or Satin Black, and the J shape is available in finishes of Brushed Steel, Polished Chrome or Rose Gold, shown here

