YOUR KITCHEN DESIGN GUIDE

The big ideas, pro advice, and instant upgrades you need to transform your home’s hardest-working room.

By Joanna Linberg
A STRONG FINISH

Materials matter. Check out the latest natural looks for cabinets, counters, and drawers.

SHOP
What’s the next granite?

Every designer we talked to agreed: Quartzite is the new “it” material, especially if you want the look of marble with less care and lower cost. “Grey Goose” (similar to Calacatta, below) is Los Angeles designer Ana Henton’s (mass-arch.com) favorite variety. “I wish I could keep it a secret forever,” she says. Available at Daltile (daltile.com).

Calacatta Quartzite Q721 Looks like marble, with thinner veining.

Blue Fusion Q722 A swirling sea of blues and greens.

Ocean Tide Q716 Blue strokes that look like brush marks.

Crystallize Q705 Cream with ribbons of gray and gold.

ONYX IS THE NEW MARBLE

Call it “onyxpected”. With marble dominant in the kitchen, it’s easy to forget there are other natural stones available. Onyx, used by designer Christina M. Tello (tellointeriors.com) as a backsplash in her Portland kitchen, is a piece of art—no embellishment required. The veining in this slab looks like petrified wood, but you’ll find golden and red patterns as well. See msistone.com for a dealer.

IDEA
Just add leather

We can’t get enough of leather cabinet pulls. This one will only add more character as it ages.

Sling Leather Pull small in warm beige: $15; knoll.com.

“We use a lot of NatureCast Concrete for countertops. It’s lighter than standard concrete and has epoxies and resins to make it more durable and stain-resistant.”

—LEELA BRIGHTENBURG, BRIGHTDESIGNLAB.COM