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# Solid Ground

*Borne of the earth, stone adds a touch of drama and gravitas to these lighting pieces*



BY MICHELE KOH MOROLLO IMAGES COURTESY OF RESPECTIVE BRANDS

## MAGIC CIRCLE

Designed by Carlo Colombo for Italian lighting brand Penta, the Je Suis lamp features a base of Carrara white marble, with orb-shaped shades in white blown glass and silver, or in transparent blown glass and silver. Available as a table lamp and floor lamp, Je Suis brings to mind a fortune teller's crystal ball or a wizard's sceptre.

When used as flints in prehistoric times, stone became responsible for the first man-made fires. As the substance that sparked the earliest human light source, it brought warmth and brightness into the lives of our cave-dwelling ancestors.

Although we've come a long way since, stone and light still have a symbiotic relationship that leads to beautiful design. While wood is warm and cosy, and metal sleek and modern, the rugged beauty of stone can transform a humble lamp into a striking and sophisticated work of art. "Natural stones have been used as structural and decorative elements in architecture since ancient times, from the Colosseum in Rome to the Great Wall of China," says Kelvin Bing, founder of Renaissance Planners & Designers. "Stone can bring out the poetic essence of a space."

The most commonly used stone for interior lighting is marble, but other stones—such as onyx, granite and obsidian—have also been used for bases or detailing in lamps and pendant lights. "Accent materials like stone always lend a sleeker, more luxurious edge to the spaces we design," says Dennis Cheok, creative director of design studio In-Expat x Upstairs. "I love the ways in which different stones catch light—this can add a tactile dimension to an otherwise very hard material." Bring the understated elegance of stone to your home with these brilliant pieces.

## FOCAL POINT

New York-based designer Lindsey Adelman's lighting pieces are as much installation art as they are a source of brightness. The Edie marble chandelier, designed by Mary Wallis for Adelman's studio, is created with bevelled marble shards; it is available in satin nickel with black marble or brushed brass and exquisitely grained white marble.



## BUILDING BLOCK

A block of orange-veined green onyx glows when light from a neon hoop attached to the top section shines through it. Designed by Sabine Marcellis for Bloc Studios, the Voie light series resulted from an investigation into light-path manipulation.



#### DELICATE BALANCE

Karl Zahn's Demeter 02, designed for Roll & Hill, was inspired by the scales of the Greek goddess of harvest and agriculture. With a half-sphere marble base, moveable transversal and two half-capsule shaped diffusers, this graceful table lamp comes with an integrated cord dimmer, and is available in finishings of bronze and brushed brass.

#### BRIGHT IDEA

Composed of a black or white turned-marble structure, with a steel ceiling support, the Eolo suspension lamp from Italian brand Porada is a striking illumination source that is classical yet surprisingly modern.



#### MARBLE MARVEL

Italian architect Carlo Colombo pays homage to Milan with FontanaArte's limited edition Milano table lamp. With contemporary helmet-like housing made entirely from carved carrara marble, the lamp has an LED board that glows to reveal the veins in the stone. Only 100 pieces are available; each comes with a certificate of authenticity.



#### VOLCANIC BEAUTY

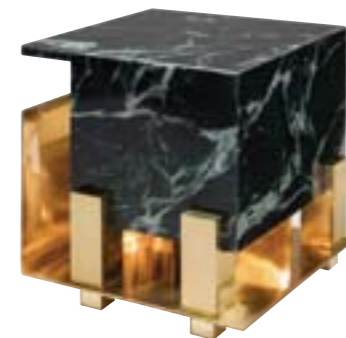
A limited edition piece from Akar de Nissim, the Song Obsidian desk lamp has a handcrafted solid oak base and four panels carved out of rare semi-transparent obsidian harvested from Mount Ararat, a volcano that straddles the boundary between Turkey and Armenia.

*THE WAYS IN WHICH DIFFERENT STONES CATCH LIGHT CAN ADD A TACTILE DIMENSION AS WELL AS A LUXURIOUS EDGE TO ANY SPACE*



#### STONE EDGE

The Flintstone collection by Brand van Egmond harks back to the prehistoric age—a time when dry branches and stones were first used as man's first fire-starting tools. This floor lamp features tree-like branches and a stone that acts as a decorative and functional counterweight. The length of each branch can be customised, and clad in either nickel or a burnished brass finish.



#### CUBIC MOVEMENT

Italian lighting brand Nahoor presents two table lamps that double as eye-catching accessories. The Cubo (seen above) combines Carrara marble with a wood or brass finishing to create a lamp akin to a work of art, while the Yuma table lamp uses brass and onyx for a sleek, opulent piece.



#### IN THE FRAME

Made of Carrara marble, aluminium and brushed nickel, Italian brand Tato's Quattrolati table lamp was created by Czech-born, Amsterdam-based designer Hisham Kulhanek. Resembling a square frame with rounded corners, it has a bulb incorporated into one side on the frame's inner surface, its glow illuminating the other three sides, reflecting and spreading the light.



#### AKAR DE NISSIM

4 Teck Lim Road  
Tel: 6221 6301  
akardenissim.com

#### BLOC STUDIOS

bloc-studios.com

#### BRAND VAN EGMOND

Marquis HnC  
16 Tai Seng Street  
#01-00/C  
Tel: 6742 2386  
brandvanegmond.com  
marquishnc.com

#### ROLL & HILL

SPACE FURNITURE  
77 Bencoolen Street  
Tel: 6415 0000  
rollandhill.com  
spacefurniture.com.sg

#### FONTANA ARTE, NAHOOR AND TATO

MARQUIS QSQUARE  
16 Tai Seng Street  
Level 1  
Tel: 6383 0119  
fontanaarte.com  
nahoor.com  
tatoitalia.com  
marquis.com.sg

#### LINDSEY ADELMAN

lindseyadelman.com

#### PENTA, PORADA

STUDIO216  
200 Newton Road  
#01-01  
Tel: 6909 2128  
pentalight.it  
porada.it  
studio216.co

# SURFACE MATTERS

If you're a little overwhelmed by the variety of countertop materials in the market, fret not—we've done some research to help you decide

BY MICHELE KOH MOROLLO IMAGES COURTESY OF RESPECTIVE BRANDS MAIN IMAGE NEXT125/ W. ATELIER

More than just a place to prepare food, the modern kitchen is increasingly becoming an important social zone for family and friends. Because of this, homeowners are paying more attention to the type of countertop materials that they use, turning the culinary space into one that also functions as a gathering place.

"Contemporary luxury is the trend for kitchen counters right now, with a focus on material composition," says Bu Shukun, director of local design firm Architology. "There is a preference for bold designs that express clarity of construction with materials that seamlessly contrast." He shares that some of the most popular features at present include kitchens with a combination of different surface materials, such as wild marble counters with matte black cabinets, or stainless steel tops and slim-tile cabinet doors.

In terms of design, general manager Daniel Magg of bathroom, kitchen and furniture purveyor W. Atelier tells us that marble-effect surfaces are all the rage right now, though his advice is to think about the specifics of your kitchen rather than simply following trends. "Some light-coloured materials are sensitive to sunlight, so if your kitchen is very sunny, it's better to choose darker colours," he says. He adds another useful tip: "Countertop thickness plays an important role from a design, as well as an ergonomic, perspective. As most materials are three metres long and a maximum of 1.3 metres wide, you should consider the material size when the kitchen is planned in order to avoid unsightly joints."

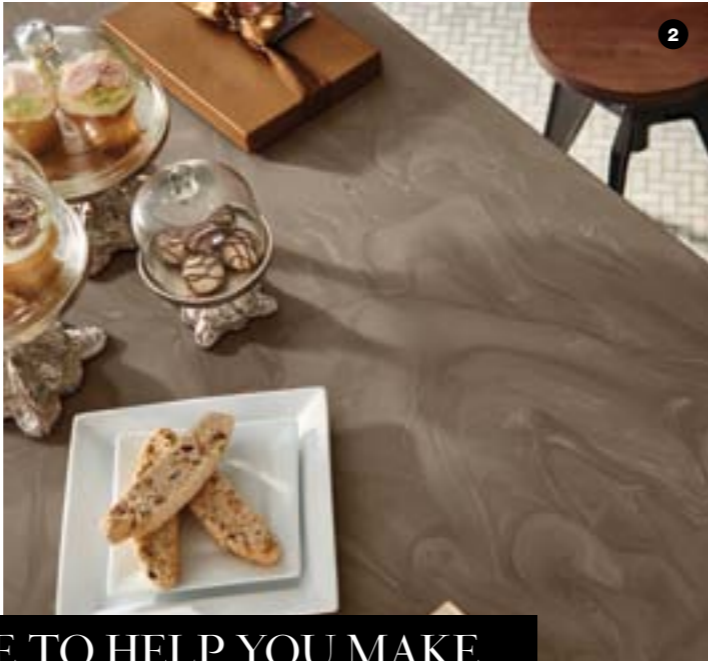
Your culinary habits should affect the countertop selection, too. Azman Sawal, a senior consultant from home kitchen specialist MK-Tre, says it's important to consider the type of cooking you'll be doing and the type of appliances you'll be using. "Asian cooking often requires the use of spices

*DARKER, LESS POROUS MATERIALS MINIMISE STAINING—ITS TEXTURAL DESIGN MAKES A BOLD IMPACT TOO*

**RIGHT** Table and kitchen countertop in Caesarstone's Tuscan Dawn quartz surface; the Statuario Maximus and Wild Rock quartz surfaces, also from Caesarstone such as turmeric and curry powder, which leaves hard-to-clean stains," he explains. "If you cook Asian food frequently, use a material that is less porous to minimise staining. The types of cooktops and kitchen appliances are also important. Industrial cooking appliances from brands such as Wolf or Viking have stronger voltage and fire output, so certain materials like solid surfaces aren't ideal for kitchens using these brands."

**OPPOSITE PAGE** Kitchen brand Next125 pairs its sleek, handleless cabinetry with its selection of laminate, ceramic or quartz worktops





HERE'S A QUICK GUIDE TO HELP YOU MAKE SENSE OF THE MYRIAD MATERIALS AVAILABLE

1

**QUARTZ**

Quartz surfaces are engineered stone comprising crushed quartz and other minerals that are combined with resin. This results in rock-like worktops more durable than natural stone, thus creating a non-porous, heat and bacteria-resistant worktop that doesn't require protective sealing. Look to brands such as Caesarstone, which produce such surfaces with up to 93 per cent quartz in patterns that mimic marble, concrete and semi-precious stones.

2

**SOLID SURFACES**

Composed of a higher percentage of resin than quartz, solid surfaces are more malleable than quartz worktops. Its pliability allows the stain-resistant surface to be easily integrated seamlessly with materials like wood and stainless steel. "Because of their acrylic content, solid surfaces are more pliable, which allows for curved counters," says Ann Lee, general manager of furniture retailer P5; the store carries Italian kitchen brand Dada, which uses solid surfaces from Corian.

3

**NATURAL STONE**

Natural stones such as granite and marble are highly durable, with a robust look. However, these are porous, which can lead to water marks on your countertop over time. If you love the rugged look of natural stone, consider Sensa by Cosentino—this collection of natural granite surfaces has been treated with an invisible coat that protects against liquid penetration, stains, as well as colour damage that may be caused by sunlight and UV radiation.

4

**LAMINATES**

Laminates are a versatile paper-based composite that is easy to clean, while offering good resistance to scratches. It's also available in myriad textures to suit any interior style—these include wood-grain veneers, matte-effect lacquers, as well as high gloss finishes. Laminate brand Formica has introduced Protec+, a new collection which harnesses the antimicrobial properties of silver to prevent the growth of bacteria on these surfaces.

5

**STAINLESS STEEL**

Extremely durable, and highly heat and water-resistant, stainless steel is the go-to for professional chefs; and it adds a sleek accent to any kitchen. While the metal alloy is easy to clean, it is more prone to scratching and dents. Opt for a brushed finish to conceal such imperfections, and pair it with steel, wood or laminate cabinetry from SieMatic—its "AntiPrint" coating reduces the appearance of fingerprints on matte surfaces.

6

**NANOTECH MATERIAL**

A technologically advanced material that is revolutionising kitchen design, Fenix NTM (nanotech material) has a matte finish and a smooth feel. This durable and aesthetically attractive surface material is low-maintenance, has anti-fingerprint properties, and is highly resistant to abrasions. The material has a surprising thermal healing feature that allows micro-scratches on the surface to be healed an infinite number of times.

7

**CERAMIC**

Like stainless steel, one of the biggest advantages of ceramic is that it allows you to cut and prepare food directly on your countertop if you so choose. Resistant to scratches, stains, heat, mould and chemical products, ceramic also holds up well against humidity, which makes it ideal for outdoor kitchens. Italian ceramic brand Laminam offers counters in sophisticated textures that are inspired by stone, wood and plaster.



**CAESARSTONE**

10 Bukit Batok Crescent  
#08-06, The Spire  
Tel: 6316 1938  
caesarstone.sg

**CORIAN**

DUPONT SINGAPORE  
21 Biopolis Road  
#06-21 Nucleos,  
South Tower  
Tel: 6586 3688  
dupont.com.sg

**COSENTINO**

34/35 Duxton Road  
Tel: 6713 9543  
cosentino.com

**FENIX NTM**

EDL  
43 Sungei Kadut Street 1  
EDL Building  
Tel: 6664 8010  
fenixntm.com  
edleuro.com

**FORMICA**

502 Sims Ave  
Tel: 6514 1312  
formica.com

**LAMINAM**

ONE CONCEPT  
9 Loyang Way  
#04-02 Krislite Building  
Tel: 6286 1438  
laminam.it  
oneconcept.com.sg

**P5**

Molteni&C | Dada  
63 Mohamed Sultan Road  
#01-14 Sultan Link  
Tel: 6337 0050  
dada-kitchens.com  
p5.com.sg

**W ATELIER**

Next125 and SieMatic  
201 Henderson Road  
#01-01  
Tel: 6270 8828  
watelier.com

# STRIKE A BALANCE

Overtaking the cosy Danish concept of *hygge* is *lagom*—the Swedish term for a cooler, pared-down way of life that offers all the snugness of *hygge* in a more streamlined concept

BY MICHELE KOH MOROLLO IMAGES COURTESY OF RESPECTIVE BRANDS MAIN IMAGE BUREAUX.CO.ZA

It's easy to get caught up in the fast pace of city life, which is why it seems ever more essential for our homes to provide a cosy respite from the hustle and bustle. Your bedroom is the first place to start—bring home the Swedish concept of *lagom* and master the art of mindful living.

*Lagom* is a Goldilocks-esque concept that roughly translates as “not too little, not too much—just right”. Essentially, it is all about living in a sustainable, balanced and comfortable way. “Often, we over-buy, over-decorate and pack too much into our homes without thinking if our purchases are necessary,” says Andrew Tan, owner of furniture and lifestyle store Atomi. “*Lagom* is about living within your means on a daily basis.” According to Tan, the concept favours simplicity and neatness. “Invest in versatile pieces that can be easily repositioned to suit your needs within and even beyond the bedroom—this not only keeps things tidy, but also allows you to maximise space when needed,” says Tan, who also suggests choosing furniture with simple shapes and clean lines, natural materials such as wood, as well as fabrics in warm colours.



## LAGOM ENCOURAGES CONSCIOUS SHOPPING— CHOOSING PIECES THAT BRING YOU JOY AND WILL STAND THE TEST OF TIME

**ABOVE**  
Integrate shelving  
into your bed to  
streamline the  
design of your  
room and provide  
storage for a  
clutter-free space

Terence Neo, design director of Singapore-based interior design studio Eightytwo, says less is more when it comes to *lagom*. “The key to a clutter-free look is customisation,” he explains. “A smaller, well-planned wardrobe with tailor-made drawers, niches and hanging rods that complement the type of clothes you wear is much more useful than a large, unplanned wardrobe.” Neo also suggests using a nude palette to brighten the room, and incorporating plants, patterned throw pillows or an oversized mirror to enliven an otherwise spick-and-span concept.

Emelie Hedén, the Swedish founder of Scandinavian vintage furniture brand Möbler, explains that *lagom* doesn't mean bedrooms devoid of decoration. “*Lagom* encourages us to live a simpler life through conscious shopping—purchasing pieces you truly love and that will stand the test of time, rather than getting a momentary buzz from an impulse buy. So edit and curate your furniture and accessories until the best is left.”

She adds that Scandinavians love wood and cast iron, as well as mixing and matching styles and textures, which can take a muted bedroom to a new level. “Swedish homes are very much influenced by nature, so go for layers of natural materials such as linen, wool and wood to add warmth to your abode,” she says. Here are some smart buys that can help make your bedroom look and feel just right.



### HIDDEN FINDS

Launched at Salone Del Mobile this year, the Pocket chair by Spanish design studio Stone Designs and Swedish firm Blå Station helps to minimise clutter with its secret cup-like compartment. Concealed under the seat, it serves as storage for bags, gadgets, scarves, jackets, or anything else that might make your room look messy.



#### ZEN ZONE

If you like to journal or do a little work in your bedroom, then consider including a compact work desk. Scandi-inspired Japanese brand Hiromatsu's Writing Desk Bureau, Sono Desk and Harvard Desk all complement the *lagom*-style bedroom beautifully.



#### TABLE TWINS

Möbler's 1960s vintage Jacaranda wood side tables are lightweight and versatile enough to be easily repositioned. The two tables are of different heights, so the shorter one slots neatly under the other when not needed.



#### LIGHTNESS OF BEING

Italian brand Flexform's Isabel bed by Carlo Colombo is a contemporary piece with a modern, linear frame wrapped entirely in soft, saddle leather. Its terse, economical design brings out the luxurious texture of the smooth leather while showcasing a compact silhouette imbued with a sense of lightness.

#### BUTTERFLY EFFECT

This 1958 classic butterfly shelf unit by Poul Cadovius, reissued by Danish furniture concept brand DK3, is versatile and multifunctional. Available in solid walnut or oak, it can be used as a bookshelf, a spot to rest clothes on hangers, or a place to store jewellery and trinkets. It can be hung on the wall alone, in pairs, or in a group to create a storage system that doubles up as a three-dimensional wall mural.



#### MADE FOR YOU

The modular walk-in wardrobe by Poliform offers a wide range of customisable components—everything from extractable shoe racks to shirt trays—to meet your unique storage needs in a seamless, streamlined design.



#### SIMPLE COMFORTS

Opt for versatile pieces such as the Bongo pouf range from King Living, which can function as a seat, footstool or coffee table; add a tray on top to use it as a side table. The Bongo Storage pouf has concealed storage for towels and other accessories. Available in four sizes, each pouf can be decked in removable covers in a colourful array of leathers and fabrics.

#### SNUG SLUMBER

Black, white, cream, grey and monochrome prints create a simple and serene sleeping space. Singapore homeware store Maissonne is a great place to seek out such comfy and chic bedlinens, pillows and throws that will bring a little Swedish snugness into your bedroom.



#### BLÅ STATION

blastation.com

#### DK3

DANISH DESIGN

100e Pasir Panjang

Road

#06-03 Century

Warehouse

Tel: 6270 8483

danishdesignco.com.sg

dk3.dk

#### FLEXFORM

200 Newton Road

#01-01

Tel: 6909 2128

studio216.co

flexform.it

#### HIROMATSU

ATOMI

333A Orchard Road

#04-26/27

Mandarin Gallery

Tel: 6887 4138

atomi-jp.com

hiromatsu.org

#### KING LIVING

22 Kallang Avenue

#01-00 Hong Aik

Building

Tel: 6805 4198

kingliving.com.sg

#### MAISSONE

maissone.com

#### MÖBLER

10C Jalan Ampas

Tel: 9882 5320

moblersingapore.com

#### POLIFORM

SPACE FURNITURE

77 Bencoolen Street

Tel: 6415 0000

spacefurniture.com.sg

poliform.it

#### STONE DESIGNS

stone-dsgns.com