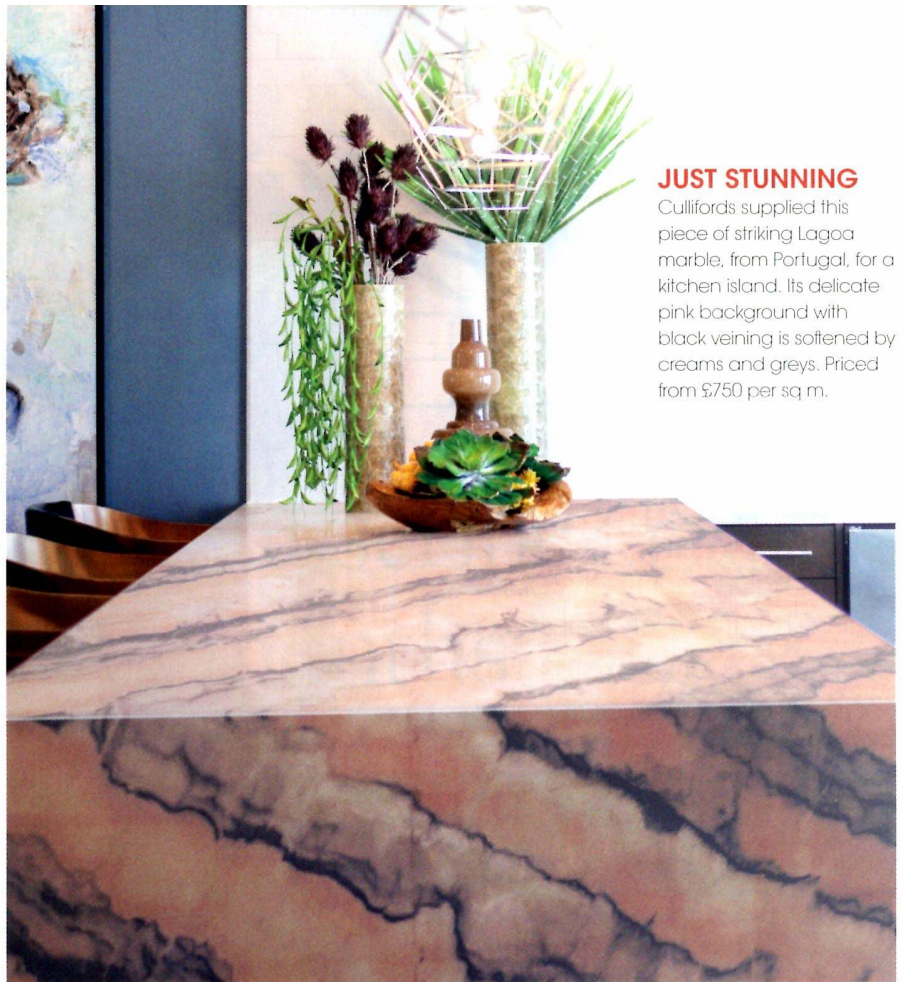


PROJECT *planner*

Authentic marble is an investment, so expect the price to vary from £250 to more than £1000 per m. The price depends on the type of stone, its availability and how difficult it is to quarry. The whitest blocks do tend to be the most sought after and therefore more expensive, although there is a growing trend for heavily veined and colourful slabs that create a striking statement as a splashback, worksurface, or a bathroom countertop on a vanity unit.

You'll need to factor in time and attention when it comes to maintaining marble. Unlike fabricated worktops, it requires careful maintenance to keep it looking its best. As a porous material, it can scratch and stain easily – with things such as acidic liquids, such as lemon juice, and abrasive cleaning products likely to cause damage to the surface. It's also vital that your marble worktops are sealed to help repel water and oil before you start using them – and if you are a busy cook, you'll need to reseal them every six months. Over time, you can expect the surface to change colour due to oxidation, so don't be alarmed if you notice a variation. Remember, it is a natural material, but with some discipline, your marble will stand the test time.



JUST STUNNING

Cullifords supplied this piece of striking Lagoa marble, from Portugal, for a kitchen island. Its delicate pink background with black veining is softened by creams and greys. Priced from £750 per sq m.



A CLASSIC LOOK

Gunter & Co used Volakas white marble, from £5000 for a block, for this kitchen's island, worktops and splashback. Its fine veining may vary in colour, from light grey and purple to beige or white-cream.



UNDERSTATED ELEGANCE

Designspace London vein matched the Carrara marble worktop with the base units of Modulnova's Twenty kitchen. Kitchens start from £25,000.