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hen you come to choose material finishes for your new kitchen, you'll soon realise that your choices are almost unlimited and that, possibly, there's more to life than a simple design with just one style of cabinetry and worktop. From natural wood and stone to industrial metals and concrete,

each of these materials can be specially crafted to add a new dimension to your kitchen, evoking different moods and design styles. However, it's the way that you mix them that will give the resulting scheme its real magic. 'Most people dream of a unique, bespoke and entirely personal space to spend their time in,' says The Main Company's director, Alex Main. 'This can be achieved by mixing materials to create a distinctive design.'

But deciding on the materials is only half of the battle - it's that deft touch in combining them where your kitchen designer will really showcase their talents. Mixing and matching finishes on cabinetry doors and work surfaces can create a striking effect, but if you've got a statement material you really want to showcase, put it front and centre, suggests Adrian Stoneham, managing director at Stoneham Kitchens. 'You could opt for a kitchen island in a different material and finish to create a focal point of the room.'

Integrating different materials doesn't just have to be for aesthetic reasons, but also for functional ones. 'Different worktops, for example, work extremely well for highlighting a specific zone for food preparation,' continues Adrian. And, as you'll see in this selection of kitchens utilising a wide selection of material finishes, durability and practicality is often a forming factor in the choices made in the design of these spaces. *1 to 1111*



PHOTO PAUL CRAIG

PATTERNED AFTER NATURE

Above The patterning of the Italian stone veneer cladding used on this kitchen island by The Wood Works is unique to each piece, as it's a natural product. Elsewhere, inside acrylic fronted pocket doors, a stained ash interior offers an interesting outlook when making your morning coffee.

Kitchens from £25,000

BRONZE AGE

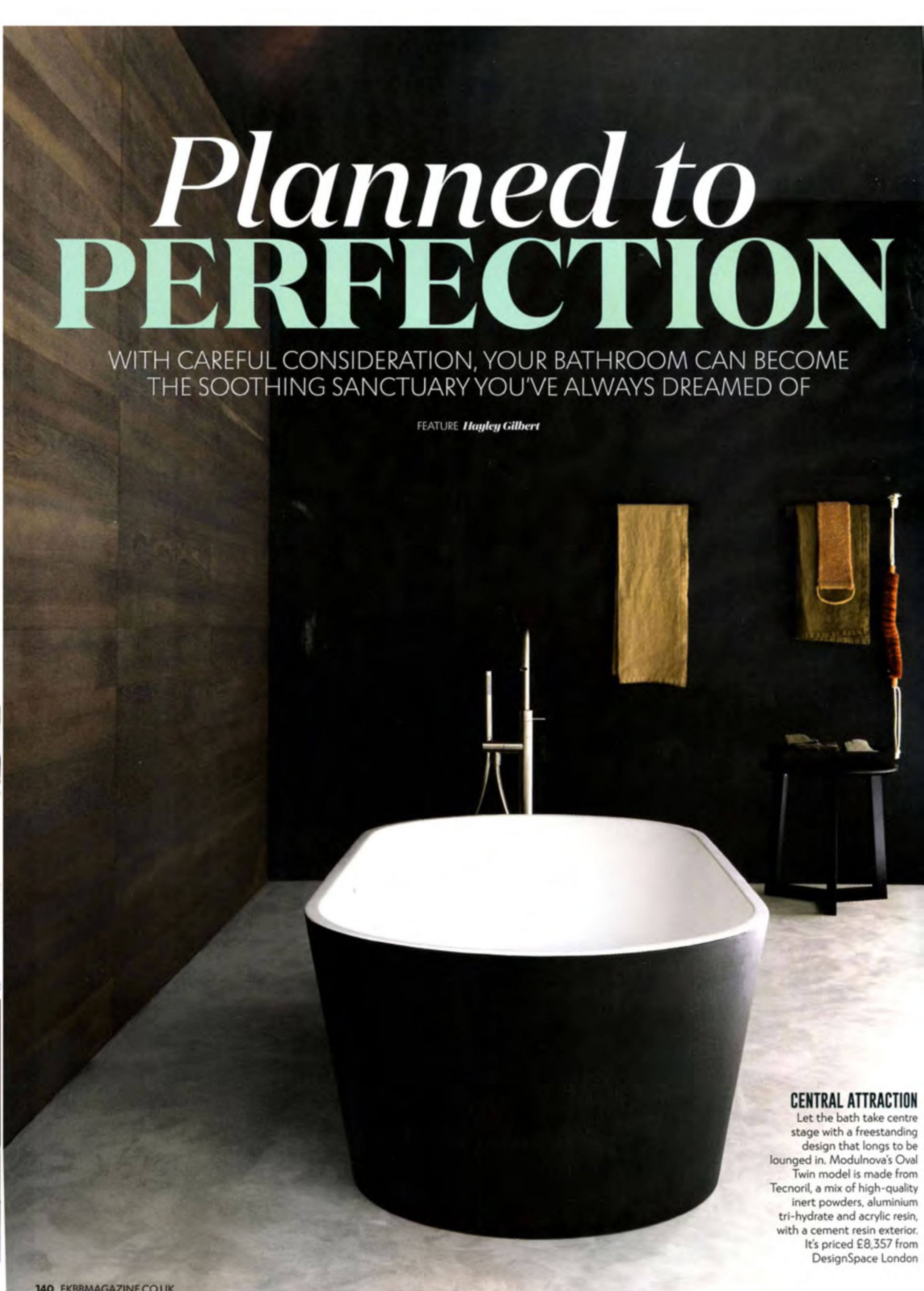
Right A perfect combination of wood, stone and metal, this modern kitchen by DesignSpace London features a 30mm Taj Mahal quartzite on the island, floor and splashback, teamed with Modulnova's MH6 in Bronze metallised finish and walnut wall panelling. Kitchen prices start from £25,000



Planned to PERFECTION

WITH CAREFUL CONSIDERATION, YOUR BATHROOM CAN BECOME THE SOOTHING SANCTUARY YOU'VE ALWAYS DREAMED OF

FEATURE Hayley Gilbert



CENTRAL ATTRACTION

Let the bath take centre stage with a freestanding design that longs to be lounged in. Modulnova's Oval Twin model is made from Tecnoril, a mix of high-quality inert powders, aluminium tri-hydrate and acrylic resin, with a cement resin exterior. It's priced £8,357 from DesignSpace London