

Bricks & Mortar

Tudor trends

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Happy valleys — the new hotspots **pages 8-9**

Stealth luxe decor brands **pages 16-17**



Clockwise from above: Hunting & Narud copper mirrors, from £5,700. Keir Townsend copper and brass-clad sideboard, from £9,237. David Derksen copper pendant light, from €545. Fired Earth copper and enamel Aphrodite Cyprus basin, £945. Tom Dixon copper and cast-iron Base Copper floor lamp, £845. J&L Lobmeyr and Studio Formafantasma copper vessel filter, €1,600, and silica vessel, €680



and fittings within the kitchen and bathroom. We heat-treated and lacquered the fireplace and staircase before installation to bring out a variety of colours, from reds and pinks to blues, and combined this with sections of polished copper to show the material's full potential."

Copper has traditionally been a kitchen favourite and remains so due to desirable contemporary kit such as Alessi's La Cintura di Orione collection designed by Richard Sapper (casserole, £215; sauteuse, £234). But why stop at the *batterie de cuisine*? La Cornue – the Rolls-Royce of kitchen-range makers – gives its Château 150 model (£36,960, pictured overleaf) a solid-copper finish and polished-copper trim. Handmade to order, it has a personalised hob configuration and choice of fuel supply.

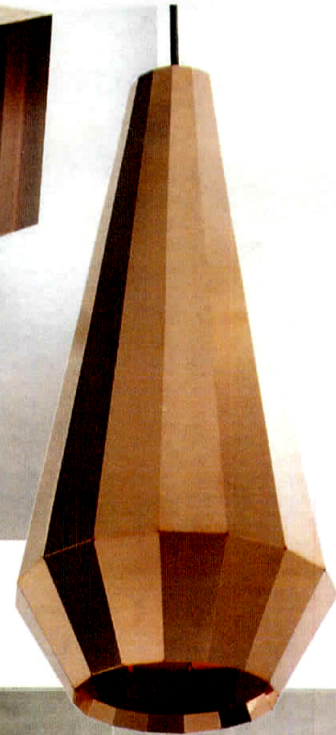
This winning combination of aesthetics and functionality is also found in the glass and copper mosaic tiles made by Artistic Tile for surface specialist De Ferranti. Designs such as Treble (£1,932 per sq m, pictured overleaf) make attractive splashbacks or feature panels in kitchens or bathrooms.

"Copper's warmth of colour and antimicrobial properties are increasingly attracting homeowners away from industrial-looking steel surfaces," says founder Alvaro de Ferranti. DXU, the Montreal

design studio founded by Joel Dumas and David Umemoto, uses recycled copper to handcraft two wall tiles, Batavia and Kalimantan (£5,000 per sq m; Kalimantan pictured on previous pages). "Their textures and patterns play with depth and reflection, shadows and light," says exclusive UK supplier Fameed Khalique.

A copper bath, meanwhile, is luxurious and practical. It warms up quickly and, as Aphrodite/Venus – often depicted bathing – represented copper in mythology, there's a poetic quality too. Fired Earth's double-ended Babylon bath (£5,700) is made from solid copper with a white-enamel or polished-nickel interior. There are also two copper basins. Deeply curved Aphrodite Cyprus (£945, pictured above right) has a white-enamel interior, while Aphrodite Kythera (£1,350) has a stepped base and lipped rim with a polished-nickel interior. Bathroom specialist Drummonds also now offers its bestselling cast-iron Tay (£8,940, pictured overleaf) and Usk (£8,340) baths with hand-applied copper cladding. This bespoke finish can be polished to a rich glow or given an antique verdigris patina.

Homeowners have not always been so enthusiastic about copper. "It used to be considered too industrial for a home environment, but now there's a greater understanding of the material," says British furniture-maker Paul Kelley. "To me it's warm and inviting and needs to be touched and used. The way it ages really appeals to me. And it's often recycled, which makes it pretty eco-friendly. Copper also works as well with wood and concrete as with textiles and wallpaper, and it's a very forgiving material that lends itself to all kinds of applications. Each design has its own character and finish – from a highly polished Tom Dixon light to the



raw look of my patinated cubes." Here Kelley is referring to his modular Bob cubes (from £195 per cube, pictured on previous pages) in copper-clad MDF, which launched at London's 100% Design show last September. A soon-to-be-patented magnetic system attaches any face to another simply by stacking or pushing the cubes together to create chunky tables, stools, benches, seats or room dividers with various configurations. Kelley also makes glamorous bespoke designs. One client requested copper storage boxes and a walk-in wardrobe whose Douglas-fir interior is concealed by sliding copper doors (from around £42,000). Others have commissioned a chic copper tallboy (from £21,000), a copper and walnut desk (from £20,000) and a drinks trolley (from £12,000) made out of copper sheet, cast acrylic and walnut.

Copper's elemental, jewel-like qualities are highlighted in new designs such as Italian furniture specialist Baxter's sleek Loren coffee tables (price on request, examples pictured on previous pages). And London-based Keir Townsend has collaborated with Italian artisans on sideboards (from £9,237, example pictured top), cabinets (from £7,578) and coffee tables (from £3,026) clad in copper or given a striated effect using variegated strips of natural and burnished copper, polished steel and brass. Equally elegant is Nicolas Le Moigne's limited-edition Copper High Table (£9,600, pictured on previous pages), which launched at Design Miami/Basel last June. Made from spun copper and black-lacquered steel, this eloquent design whispers a playful subtext about the use of plinths or podiums in museum and gallery displays.

More dynamic is the vertical and horizontal geometry of Christopher Jenner's brushed-copper and pearwood Devisor shelving (example pictured on previous pages, £2,500), which is shipped flatpacked and supplied with a

