


intra

INTERIORS FOR ARCHITECTS AND DESIGNERS

DINNER
MONEY

Making it in restaurant design

 WAGAMAMA'S ALAN YAU SPEAKS OUT STEPHEN BAYLEY'S DINING IDEAL
WHY THE EXPO ISN'T DEAD BACK TO CHILDHOOD WITH MARCUS SHARP
BEST OF THE LONDON INTERIORS SHOW WHAT'S COOKING IN KITCHEN DESIGN

splashbacks are one of the easiest to clean – as there's no grouting, no bacteria can be caught.'

Tom Pike of experienced London-based residential architect Pike Practice says: 'We use glass splashbacks all the time. They're very practical and aesthetically pleasing as you can get them in any tint.' He also favours natural materials such as stone or wood for their durability.

Concrete-derived products are another market trend, allowing specifiers more control over the material than if it were cast concrete. One of the companies to spot this niche is Cast Advanced Concretes, which has launched Mass, a patented precast product. A laminated, fully-sealed concrete, it is made from cement and silica sands, is available in 18 colours and resists staining by such things as red wine and lemon juice.

Backed by an MDF substrate, Mass is only 15mm deep in places and so is much lighter than cast concrete. It can be used with CNC cutting techniques, giving architects more control over form than with casting. It is also available as floor and wall panels.

Corian's recent Concrete Block range for its Zodiac quartz composite material looks similar to concrete but comes with a guarantee. 'There is a large demand now for solid colours in the market and the Concrete Block collection has an additional dimension with its smooth, matt finish,' says architect Massimo Fucci, regional architect and design relations manager at Corian manufacturer DuPont Surfaces.

Corian's composite solid surface remains ever-popular, favoured for its durability, colour range and flexibility. Architects such as Julian Baker of Ellis Williams Architects (see Lymm Tower case study, page 39) are big fans, as long as the price fits the budget. Paul McDowell, managing director of DuPont Surfaces, says there are plans to introduce earthy colours in response to consumer trends, and a new patented hinging and fixing system allows the material to be used to clad cupboard.

Wood's aesthetic appeal ▶



RED HOUSE, LONDON

A vertical plane of walnut rising 3m from a worktop of the same material creates a dramatic focal point for the kitchen in a former telephone exchange in Clerkenwell.

Architect Curtis Wood chose this feature to emphasise the 4.2m double-height space.

'As soon as you walk in,

your eye gets drawn up to the ceiling height,' says Andrew Wood, who designed the kitchen as part of a £35,000 refit of the two-bedroom flat.

The walnut L-shape defines the boundary of the kitchen and the dining area. It is double-sided and rests on a subtle glass support beneath the

counter. The top end is nailed into ceiling joists. The counter forms a breakfast bar and continues along the wall at right angles to incorporate the sink and cooker.

Curtis Wood sourced the timber for £1,100 over the internet after an initial quote of £7,000.

hardwoodfloorstore.co.uk