

## The dark side

There's something deliciously daring about an all-black kitchen scheme – the depth and warmth of dark cabinetry, whether contemporary or traditional in style, is a chic and classic look that can become a stunning space when done well. But before you take the plunge, there are certain design elements that you need to take into consideration. Firstly, how big is the space, and how much natural light does it benefit from? There is no need to completely black out the kitchen to make this look work, and how much of it to include will depend on the size of the room and amount of natural light available,' says Daniel Bowler, director at Eggersmann. 'Remember that black absorbs light, so contrast it with lighter colours for balance and consider your material selection, too – mirrored finishes, glass and metallic are all popular partners for black furniture, creating a dramatic effect.'

Incorporating design flourishes will prevent a black scheme from being overwhelming, and can create layers of interest. Elements such as concrete or quartz worktops can add a visual dimension without necessarily detracting from the overall dark theme, and wooden surfaces or flooring also create a bit of contrast but avoid going as far as introducing another colour. Also, think about incorporating metallic touches in the form of kitchen taps, a splashback or simply kitchen handles. 'Hardware is a great option for taking a monotone scheme from ordinary to extraordinary,' says Richard Davonport, managing director at Davonport. 'For darker kitchens, brass hardware is particularly effective, and there are so many styles to choose from – from classic cup handles through to more industrial-style cabinet latches.' And don't forget about the power of statement kitchen appliances. 'Focal appliances, such as a coloured range oven or a large chrome fridge freezer can add interest and break up the cabinetry,' he adds.



### WAY TO GLOW

Above This Genius Loci scheme from Valcucine is designed by Forza and makes use of an illuminated back panel with chromotherapy lighting, a monochrome trim and Cocoa matt glass worktops to break up the Warm Black textile glass cabinetry, priced from €65,000

### DRAMATICALLY DARK

Below Modulnova's Fly Kitchen in Dark Stained Oak veneer has been teamed with a dramatic Nero Assoluto surface and integrated sink. The wall cabinetry is from the Blade collection, in Graphite Aluminium. Pops of orange lift the scheme. DesignSpace London kitchens start at £25,000

