

A blackened steel-framed unit with shelves, from around £3234.34 from Roundhouse, has been suspended over this kitchen island, providing a decorative place for storage.



With a cutting-edge look, this Cielo Rettangolare freestanding basin and frame from CP Hart, priced £2602, includes a wide drawer and handy shelf as well as set-down space on the basin.



STORAGE SORTED

Clever ideas to keep your kitchen and bathroom tidy

Clearing the clutter is often the driving force behind a redesign. So this issue, we take a fresh look at how you can improve your set-up with the latest innovative ideas out there >

Words: Sally Smith



MISSION 1:

SORT KITCHEN STORAGE

Knowing what to choose when you are looking to update your kitchen can be a task – and it's hard to not give in to the temptation and buy every drawer divider or sliding pantry mechanism on the market to hide away all your kitchenwares and gadgets. But when it comes to successful storage, simple and well-thought out solutions are often best. Follow our steps to help organise your rooms.

TAKE STOCK

It's time to empty out your cupboards: assess your collection of glass jars, bottles, and tupperware and make a note of the tallest items.

Design from the inside out, planning where you'll store every tin and box and making sure you measure each new shelf so everything will fit. Think about your cooking routines and decide where you need your everyday essentials – such as oils, vinegars, and utensils – and put them in easy reach beside the hob, on a splashback shelf, or hanging from a rail above the oven. A bespoke rack on the inside of your pantry cupboard or a custom drawer offers the ideal place to store all the herbs and spices you need for your favourite recipes.

"It's vital to utilise every inch of space, so it's important to consider what you have to store – from the toaster to the food mixer and pantry essentials," advises Sam Hart, designer at Roundhouse. "Don't forget, open shelving is always a great way to break up a line of cabinets."

ERGONOMIC PLANNING

Although you have much more room in a large open-plan space, it is more important than ever to consider where your drawers and cupboards will be within the layout. You'll be surprised how much cubic capacity an island offers – incorporating it in the right place will avoid long walks from your food storage to your worktop while cooking. Why not create an overhead unit above the island to keep saucepans to hand or even as a decorative solution?

"The volume of storage can be less important than making sure everything is in the right place," says Vincent Glue, senior designer at Smallbone of Devizes. "Chefs and serious cooks value clear worktop space for flexibility in preparation, and having items close at hand without having to open a cabinet is ideal."

LATEST TRENDS

Designers are constantly coming up with new ways to streamline your kitchen by creating more efficient units to store daily paraphernalia. Nowadays, pocket doors are being used in both large and small spaces to hide appliances from view. These cleverly designed sliding panels, available at either full or mid-height, are set across a worktop and simply slide open to reveal stacks of storage inside whenever you need it.

"Pocket doors are a great addition," says Keith Atkins, design director at DesignSpace London. "You may need to increase the depth of the worktop to incorporate the sliding mechanism, but they make an efficient storage solution that can be pushed out of sight when not in use."



This Ashbourne double pantry system by Masterclass Kitchens offers a wide selection of storage options, including different drawer styles, wine, and spice racks, as well as shelving in six different widths. Kitchens cost from £7500.



↑ This cool open shelf has been seamlessly integrated with the extractor hood for a contemporary decorative storage in this Italian-designed kitchen from Schifffini's Cinqueterre range. Price on application.



↓ These cleverly designed pocket doors from DesignSpace London's Modulnova sliding wall system streamline this kitchen's storage. Prices for a similar scheme start from £25,000.





↑ A custom-made kitchen drawer unit from Harvey Jones' Arbor range provides an ingenious solution to hide away your wine collection. Harvey Jones kitchens start from £18,000.



→ The Brasserie range from Smallbone of Devizes provides innovative storage solutions. This rack above the island can be created in a range of bespoke sizes and finishes. Kitchens start from £40,000.



Discover ideas for your kitchen on our Pinterest boards pinterest.co.uk/kbbmagazine

← This end of a bespoke tall cupboard from Martin Moore has been built as a full-height spice rack. Martin Moore kitchens start from £35,000.



↑ Pantries are ideal for keeping food cool, dry, and away from sunlight. This bespoke unit from Burbidge, from £3260, is made from natural oak and covers many storage needs – from jar shelving to a baking station.

↓ Keep all of your electronic items in one place and out of sight in a charging drawer, such as this design by Humphrey Munson. The baize lining ensures items are less likely to slide around if you need to open and close the drawer while they charge. Kitchens start from £35,000. ▶



MISSION 2:

SORT BATHROOM STORAGE

With often little storage space, the bathroom can be one of the hardest spaces to keep tidy – but nowadays, there are so many ideas for solutions that are as chic as they are practical. Choose from bespoke designed units, mix and match furniture, freestanding vanities, and vertical wall-mounted cabinets to create a place for anything, from towels to toiletries. Here's our advice on where to begin.

TAKE STOCK

We're all guilty of collecting too many bath oils, shampoos, and candles, so think about what you want to display around your bath and what can be hidden away. What can be stored in another room? Make sure to assess all of your goods and write a list of exactly what you'll need to store in the space before thinking about what type of furniture you'll need. Measure the height and width of bottles, think about which items you'll need every day, and – in line with your routine – decide what needs to be stored out of sight and what will be best kept out.

A mix of open storage, shelving, places to set down bottles, and designated cupboards and drawers is often best, but consider the size of your space and work out what set-up will work without feeling too full. Generally speaking, a deep, single drawer under a tabletop sink is a good idea for taller bottles that won't fit in your bathroom cabinet.

STYLISH AND PRACTICAL

Personalise your bathroom cabinets with the latest modular furniture – an innovative way to get the high-end designer look without the expense of bespoke cabinetry. Mix and match different sizes and finishes to create the ideal layout and storage set-up for your space. "The modern bathroom needs to strike a balance between style and function," says Vittorio Naldi, UK branch manager at Scavolini. "It's now a room in the house people want to enjoy. The bathroom pieces you choose reflect the look and feel of the furniture in the rest of the house."

CONTEMPORARY FEEL

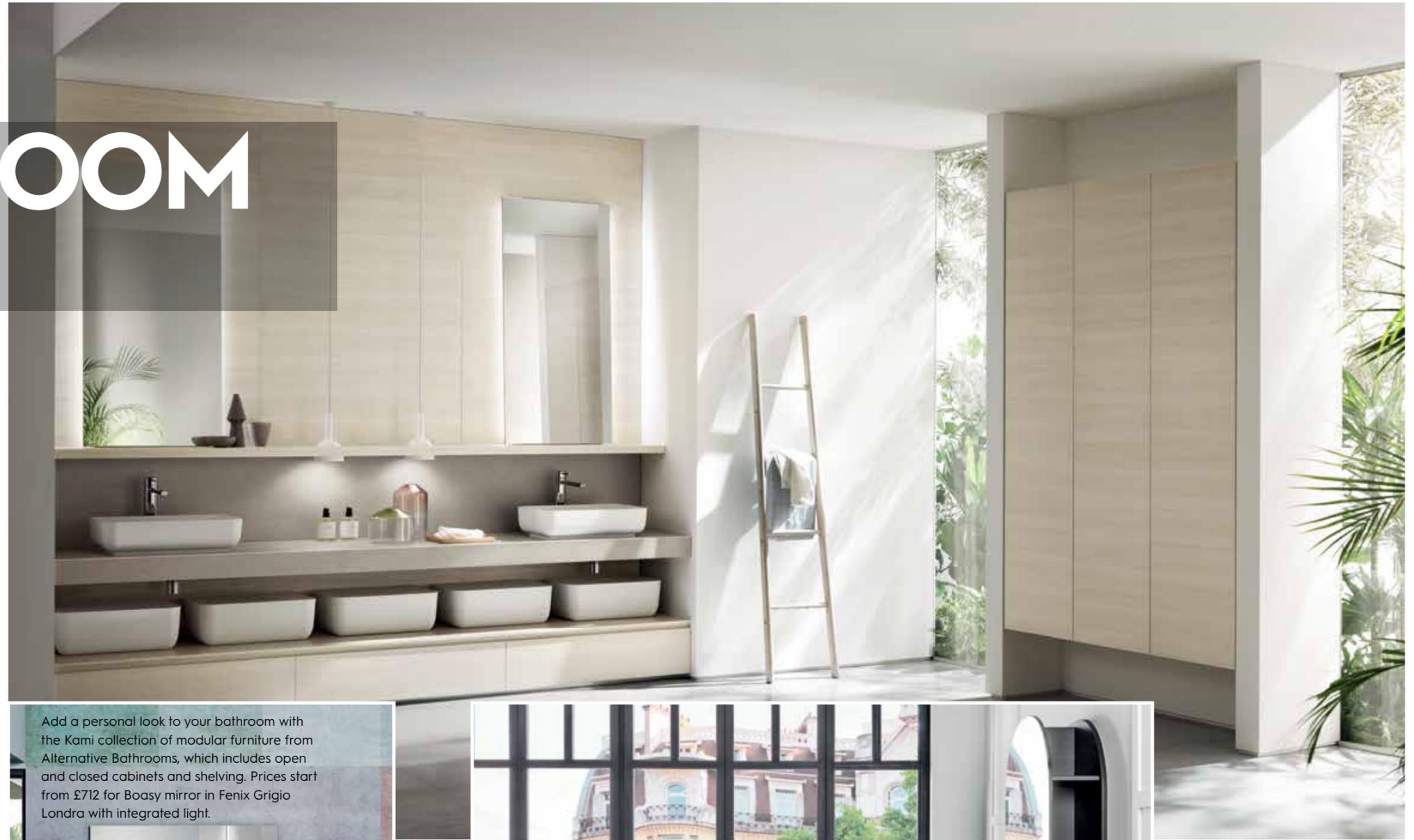
You don't always have to hide everything away in expensive cabinets to achieve that hotel-chic look. Why not try open shelving, which looks especially stylish under top-mounted basins, to store neatly rolled towels. For a clean look, why not decant your favourite soaps and conditioners into decorative bottles and arrange them on freestanding or wall-mounted shelving for a display that also makes for a practical solution? Vertical mirrors with hidden shelving are clever, too, and the latest radiators with towel rails utilise every inch of space without compromising on the designer look.

Open storage is more popular than ever, for easy access to everyday items or to display beautiful products. Wall-mounted systems keep the floor clear, and we are seeing more ceiling-suspended shelving.

CLEVER LAYOUT

We all have unique storage requirements, whether it is in a more functional family bathroom or a luxurious ensuite. So take the time to draw up an individual plan for each space before you even think about the design requirements. The aim is a streamlined look, so don't be tempted to have too many shelves and cabinets as they can make the room feel more cluttered.

"I always integrate the cabinets or shelving with the essential fixtures and sanitaryware where I can, creating a more coherent look," says Jane Gilchrist, director at Alternative Bathrooms. ▶



Add a personal look to your bathroom with the Kami collection of modular furniture from Alternative Bathrooms, which includes open and closed cabinets and shelving. Prices start from £712 for Boasy mirror in Fenix Grigio Londra with integrated light.



↑ This contemporary basin and shelf unit from Scavolini's Qi collection, designed by Japanese studio Nendo, features practical Kuuki Elm melamine baskets to organise your toiletries. Price on application.

← Go multi-functional with Villeroy & Boch's wall-mounted vertical mirror with four hidden shelves on each side. Part of the Antheus range, it is priced £1380.



← You could mistake it as a stylish kitchen cabinet, but this Vitra wall cabinet in matt white is designed to fit seamlessly in your bathroom. As part of the Sento range, it costs £876.

For stockists turn to p138

↓ Bisque's stylish Lisset towel radiator in Volcanic, £562.80, proves towel rails don't have to be boring. Available in a range of heights to suit any space.



↑ Hooks don't always have to be on the back of doors – this black-framed mirror unit from Vitra, £1667, doubles up as hidden hanging space.

"It may sound odd, but measuring your favourite bottles of shampoo, lotions, and storage jars should be among the first steps of planning efficient storage for your bathroom. Knowing how much height and width you need to allocate will help you design a scheme that perfectly suits your needs and belongings."
Lindsay, editor



This bespoke timber vanity unit by Ripples offers plenty of open and closed storage to a uniquely designed ensuite for a bachelor pad. A similar design would cost around £2500. KBB