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## Kitchen Sinks Go Luxe: So Long Stainless Steel

*Refreshingly atypical—and beautiful—materials for kitchen basins are ousting drippy stainless steel and white porcelain*



KITCHEN SWITCH Designer Kathryn Scott opted for an unusual grigio adige marble in her Brooklyn kitchen, as seen in her book 'Creating Beauty' (Rizzoli). PHOTO: WILLIAM ABRANOWICZ

By Catherine Romano | June 1, 2018

"I DIDN'T WANT anything conventional," said interior designer Kathryn Scott of the kitchen sink in her Brooklyn townhouse. The showstopper she chose, made of grigio adige marble, met her two key criteria: It could pass for a vintage find and telegraphs distinguished personality. "It needed character," she said.

Once reserved for specialty spaces like wet bars and powder rooms, basins made of fetching alternatives to stainless steel and white porcelain are migrating into the kitchen. Copper, granite, concrete and marble are slaking people's thirst for interiors that don't look like wearying generic condos.

Peter Sallick, CEO and Creative Director of Waterworks, believes sales of its copper and stone sinks have increased 100% over five years because warm-metal faucet, tap and hardware options have proliferated—from brass that patinates to antique nickel: "Copper sinks, which are plated in many metal finishes, and stone sinks, which have a range of color and tonality, marry better to those new finishes."

Charleston designer Tyler Hill likes the pop of a copper sink—two of which his firm, Mitchell Hill, have lately installed—against a soothingly neutral kitchen. "I want the sink to speak," he said.



Waterworks Normandy hammered-copper sink. PHOTO: WATERWORKS

New basin products include NativeStone, a jute-reinforced concrete by Native Trails that has seen 40% to 50% growth year over year. HamatUSA's sinks of CeraSteel, porcelain-enameled stainless steel available in eight colors, are up 29% year to date, while U.K. firm Kast offers concrete sinks in voguish hues such as sage and brick.

With customized stone and cement, you can use the same material for counters and basin. The effect: sweeping continuity. "Quartz and Corian are very durable, and you can book match the veins into the sink," said Houston designer Nina Magon. "It looks like one very beautiful furniture piece." Many such integrated sinks feature water-sluing ridges in the adjacent counter top. Said San Francisco designer Grant Gibson, who installed an integrated sink of Calacatta marble in his home in 2016,

"Everyone in the world has an ugly plastic or metal dish drainer, and I didn't want that." So far, the sealed marble has resisted staining, though he noted that he wouldn't risk leaving, say, beets on it.

Bespoke sinks, which can set you back \$10,000 or more, obviously aren't for everyone. Ready-mades offer better buys. At Kentucky-based Signature Hardware, for example, you can upgrade a \$579 stainless farmhouse sink to a copper one for \$260. If you *must* have Carrara marble, you'll need an extra \$890.

But as Mr. Sallick pointed out, you're usually only buying one.