



BACK IN **BLACK**

Produced by Anne Marie Ashley

Bronze is bold, and silver never fades, but matte black is an obsession we can't suppress. When it comes to bold kitchen design, the shine-free finish is appearing on statementmaking appliances, interest-bearing backsplashes, and dramatic countertops, and is used strategically in fixtures, faucets, and hardware. It is at once exceedingly practical and arrestingly dramatic - a go-to neutral while also a perfect "pop of color."

Designer Lisa Mende knows a thing or two when it comes to designing with this dark horse and has a couple tips and a few favorite products for designing with matte black in mind. "Lighting, hardware, fabrics, wallpaper, and furnishings can work together to make basic black interesting, defining a style like traditional, transitional, or modern," Mende says. "If kitchen cabinets are the matte black element, light and contrast are needed. And while I adore an all black-and-white story, sometimes it's fun to add a color."



"THE BRASS PEARL IN THIS LISA JARVIS PULL ADDS AN AIR OF SOPHISTICATED WHIMSY."

Lisa Mende



Arteriors Norelle Pendant / \$1,050 / www.modernlightingdesign.com Kravet TOBA Fabric / to the trade / www.ahokelimited.com Lisa Jarvis Oyster Drawer Pull / \$58 each / www.birddecorativehardware.com Livettes Tropical Leaves Wallpaper / Starting at \$36 / www.livetteswallpaper.com SMEG FAB28U / \$1,999 / www.smegusa.com

