

Kitchen Maker

Issue 29

Online

**STYLISH &
SIMPLISTIC**

SMALL DETAIL, BIG IMPACT - THE FUNCTIONAL HANDLE SOLUTIONS FROM NEXT125

THERE is almost nothing that changes the look of a kitchen as decisively as the answer to the question: "How to open the cabinets?"

Whether with, or without handles, striking or minimalist - next 125 offers a big variety of handle options that can be adapted perfectly to the desired look.

The development of the kitchen to form the centre of the home is reflected in esthetical, minimalist surfaces that underline the smooth transition into the living space.

With Tip-On and N-Drive, it is possible to open doors, pull-outs and drawers by the simple touch of a finger: this enables comfortable handling even with full hands.

In order to create a homely look, next125 also offers the option Single Line that combines the advantages of handleless kitchens and of those with handles: in this case, Tip-On - used for the

lower drawers and pull-outs - is combined with a grip ledge profile directly under the worktop.

The advantage: the grip ledge profile underlines the horizontal lines and prevents the top drawers from being opened accidentally by unintentional pressure.

A kitchen with handle continues to be a classic. Easy to clean and practical in everyday use, it has a decisive effect on the look of a kitchen.

Whether grip ledge, bar handles or a milled grip: a kitchen with handle can be opened easily, "lies well in the hand" and, in combination with handleless surfaces, can create an individual look.

Want to find out more? Visit www.next125.com



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WHAT EXACTLY IS A SHAKER STYLE KITCHEN?

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ONE of the questions that kitchen designers often get asked is what exactly is a "Shaker" kitchen.

Historically, Shaker design door and drawer fronts date back to the mid-18th century and represent the embodiment of simplicity, combined with fine craftsmanship and functionality. Despite their purposeful look of ornamentation, the artistry of the cabinets is their divining charm.

The history of Shaker style

The United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing developed the furniture style early in their history and even lent their name "Shaker Quakers" to their creations.

Believing that a good life should be lived with principles; mainly honesty, utility and simplicity, the Shakers sort to install these morals in every factor of their lives, including the furniture they made.

Being a largely self-sufficient community, the Shakers grew their own food and maintained all their needs through personal manufacturing and long lasting construction.

Casting aside the ideas of "lavish living", the Shakers believed that all things should be practical, functional and, above all, honest.

This is reflected highly in their crafting process, as the lack of adornments cut down on labour and materials costs in the long term for a community, which has to forage from only the natural resources around them.

Off-cuts of wood would be repurposed to create tools, or as kindling for the fire, rather than being used to embellish an already functional piece of equipment.

Not only was the Shaker's principle a practical one, but the community were extremely vested in their religion, which also played its part in the manufacturing process.

Whilst some may well roll their eyes at the notion of an angel descending from Heaven to rest in a chair that has been hand-crafted, you can begin to understand why Shaker furniture



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embodies the principles it does and why it played so heavily on it style. Immigrating to America in 1774 as outcasts for their pious beliefs, this branch of Protestantism found a new beginning in the New World, though sadly its members were still not safe from prosecution. Led by Mother Ann Lee, the community at its height had over 5000 "brothers and sisters" and was famed for its communal living, equality of the sexes and celibacy.

The Mastery of Crafting

As well as being stunningly beautiful, the Shaker style showcases the skill and craftsmanship behind their manufacturing. Their belief that all things should hold a purpose and be crafted as a testament to God, gave them a magnificent drive to refine their crafting process and to pick only the best materials available.

In the modern world we have machinery and computers to help us with the manufacturing process, but the Shaker craftsmen would have used hand-made tools and precision of patience to refine their products and create the finished effect.

This crafting process was especially sophisticated for the construction of their cabinetry doors. Using the feature of a five-piece door front, the Shakers were able to create a beautiful door that was of sturdy construction and, of course,

vastly practical. By making the fronts from two rails, two stiles and a central panel, there was little wasted wood, whilst maintaining a solid structure that looks amazing. This, in turn, became their signatory style, the framed panel, or Shaker and this remains the case to this very day.

Not only was the prospect of adorning the furniture considered a wasteful pastime for practical purposes, but it was also in moral conflict with the Shakers beliefs. Seeing decorations and embellishments as prideful and, at its most extreme, being a form of deceit, the Shakers shirked from it.

As such no carvings, or inlays will be found on traditional, Shaker-made furniture. Instead the Shakers kept their furniture in its most simplistic and practical form to display it honestly.

Just as a woman would not wear make-up, a cabinet door needed no fine borders to draw the eye away from the fact that the cabinet was a cabinet, its beauty lying in its functionality and practical nature, "Beauty rests on Utility" – Shaker maxim.

Complimentary Colours and Wood Types

However, when one thinks of a lack of decoration, it is easy to imagine that the Shaker community lacked colour all together.

Though it is true that the men and women of the community wore modest regiment with an almost uniform design, it is



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easy to confuse them with the early pilgrims whose black and white collared appeal has become signatory to America's fledgling history.

Comparatively, the Shakers loved rich colours for their clothing and, despite their preference for sturdy well-wearing garb (they invented the first water-proof material!) they did not live in a greyscale civic.

When it came to their furniture though, the Shakers kept their colours limited to a primary palette. Usually preferring to oil their natural wood, they were also known to paint it in red, yellow, green, or blue to add a depth to their open plan houses.

Using a variety of natural plants to create their paint and dyes, this created a very earthy tone, allowing for the natural beauty of the wood to shine through and giving the desired contrast to bare white plastered walls.

Cherry wood and maple were the most commonly used types of timber in the manufacture of Shaker furniture, being rich in colour, sturdy and in abundance in the locality.

These beautiful pieces also look amazing in oak and sapele. Keeping with the Shaker traditions of natural material, oak is a preferred material, as it allows for the grain pattern to show even when painted.

A Modern Twist

No Shaker household would be complete without everything having its own place, which was why storage took a definitive part in their furniture design.

What good was having a table just to eat off of, when the utensils still needed a place to live, hence drawers in the table front.

Other common features included a peg rail to hang outdoor garments, or even chairs from the floor, chests of drawers and wardrobes that took up entire walls, a variant to a traditional English kitchen dresser.

Shaker kitchens have a universally traditional appeal of with their timeless design.

However, there are a number of ways to spice up your own Shaker style kitchen, everything from the colour you choose to paint it, to the handles you fix to the cabinetry and the worktops you choose.

One idea is to apply aperture beading to your Shaker doors to really help the design pop. You can add a further touch of rebellion to your design with a choice of cornice and a mix up of slab or V-groove end panelling.

There are a huge number of idea to shake up the traditional Shaker kitchen in order to give it a little added zest. Functional and timeless as the basic style may be it never does any harm to add a personal twist to a style which has been going strong for over three centuries.



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INSERTION SYSTEMS FOR KITCHEN FURNITURE MANUFACTURERS



JET Press supplies and supports Tee Nut insertion systems to many of the UK's top kitchen furniture manufacturers.

During the 1960s, the first four-prong Tee Nut, with its familiar eight sides, was manufactured by Sigma.

One-inch timber Rivet Tee Nuts provide greater strength and pull-through resistance, combined with a large head, allowing for a faster, deeper and straighter Tee Nut insertion, ensuring a superior quality product, whilst maintaining production efficiency.

Tee Nuts can be fed efficiently and reliably by machine, thus improving speed, accuracy and productivity.

One use for Tee Nuts is in foot and castor applications, where the extra hold-in is crucial. The metal prongs prevent rotation and the unthreaded rivet portion flares to increase the holding power of the Tee Nut.

The result is a great lead-in and better retention of the castors, legs, or feet, which then screw into the threaded Tee Nut.

Additionally, there is the benefit of the Tee Nut resisting push-out, along with easier assembly and eliminating the requirement for over-stapling.

Jet Press carries a wide range of Sigma Tee Nuts and Tee Nut insertion machines.

Want to find out more? Visit www.jetpress.com

**NEXT MONTH:
MAKING THE
MOST OF THE
USE OF
MINIMALISM IN
YOUR NEW
KITCHEN**

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TERABLACK FROM TITUS IS MUCH MORE THAN A COLOUR OPTION

WITH a close eye on emerging trends in the international furniture market, cabinet hardware expert, Titus has developed TeraBlack versions of many of its most popular products, including its successful T-type hinges, TL5 Full Metal Jacket dowels, shelf supports and push latches.

The new Tera (Titus Enhanced Resistance Application) versions

feature an attractive, non-reflective, dark-grey finish, which not only retains its appearance throughout its working life, but also offers enhanced resistance to scratching.

Particularly well suited to applications in high-end premium kitchen furniture, Titus TeraBlack products fully meet the requirements of designers and consumers looking for unobtrusive

yet attractive cabinet hardware. They have highly uniform surfaces and a velvet feel that complements their quality and enhances consumer appeal.

'At Titus, we put a great deal of effort into monitoring developments in the furniture sector. Recently we've seen a growing demand for matte black cabinet hardware,' says general manager at Titus UK, Phil Beddoe.

'We weren't satisfied, however, with the idea of responding by simply offering another colour option - we wanted to offer a market-leading solution that combined a visually appealing dark matte finish with genuine and valuable product benefits.

'Drawing on our unique expertise in cabinet hardware development and manufacture, that's exactly what we've done with the new TeraBlack versions of our products,' says Phil.

The T-type hinges with integrated soft closing are suitable for use on a wide range of doors with thicknesses up to 34mm.

Titus' unique three-way snap-on mounting system makes them very easy to install, even on large, heavy doors with multiple hinges.

The range has recently been extended to include pie-cut (bi-fold) hinges for corner cabinets, which fit standard drilling patterns and feature convenient "double-lock" opening.

This means that users can either open just one door leaf to gain access into the cabinet interior, or they can fully open the doors by locking the hinge cup and make the door leaves work as one.

The innovative Quickfit TL5 Full Metal Jacket dowels provide strong, reliable joints in all types of wooden materials, including MDF, chipboard and solid wood. This means that it is no longer necessary to use different dowels for different materials.

In addition, the new dowels offer fast, tool-free insertion, reducing assembly time by up to -50 per cent for home-assembled furniture.

Alternatively, for maximum efficiency in volume production applications, they can be inserted automatically using Titus FastFit machines.

With three types of mounting available and three types of installation possible, the broad range of shelf supports and retainers suit a variety of shelf thicknesses and materials and allow for easy fixing.

The new TeraBlack products are Titus-engineered solutions, supported by tightly controlled, repeatable, efficient, flexible and scalable manufacturing processes that provide the performance, consistency and quality essential to manufacturers of high-end furniture.

Want to find out more?
Visit www.titusplus.com



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TITUS IS NEW SPONSOR

TITUS is to become the latest corporate sponsor of The British Institute of Kitchen, Bedroom and Bathroom, Installation as the organisation continues to grow its reach into industry manufacturers.

Over the past 40 years, Titus has been active in multiple industries, including furniture and household appliances through the use of damping technology within the company's hardware solutions range.

An international brand, Titus provides global solutions and embraces the versatility and know-how of its teams worldwide.

Through innovative product design, Titus develops and manufactures precision components to improve the competitiveness of furniture and cabinetry.

'At Titus, we place a great deal of effort into monitoring developments in the cabinet furniture sector and we are delighted to be supporting the objectives of the Institute,' says general manager at Titus UK, Phil Beddoe.

'We look forward to leading positive change when it comes to quality products, services and best practice and we see installation as an integral part of such development,' adds Mr Beddoe.

'It's clear that industry manufacturers are connecting their product and the importance of installation,' says the Institute's chief executive officer, Damian Walters.

'As I've always maintained, our industry can innovate, manufacture, distribute, design and sell beautiful product, but, to coin a pun, installation is a critical component and I'm delighted that another well-respected manufacturer understands the importance of what we do and are stepping up to support us too,' adds Mr Walters.

Want to find out more? Visit www.titusplus.com



BLUM SUPPLIES THE RIGHT FITTINGS FOR THE JOB

BLUM aims to achieve furniture with the "wow" effect through its fittings for wall cabinets, doors and pull-outs. At interzum 2021, not only did customers see (virtually) which design trends are currently shaping the furniture industry, but also had the opportunity to view the fittings manufacturer's response in its product range.

At Interzum 2021, the highly respected Austrian fittings manufacturer highlighted four selling points that are currently shaping furniture design. Blum used furniture transformed with fittings from the existing and soon-to-be-extended range to present all four of these trends.

Dark surfaces

Dark materials are increasingly determining the outward appearance of furniture.

Now Blum is taking this trend inside as well, with dark fittings.

The Blum range for AVENTOS lift systems includes dark cover caps in dark grey. There is an extensive product line of CLIP top BLUMOTION hinges in onyx black, suitable for doors. In addition, LEGRABOX pull-outs in carbon black matt bring a stunning dark elegance to the base cabinet.

Want to find out more? Visit www.blum.com



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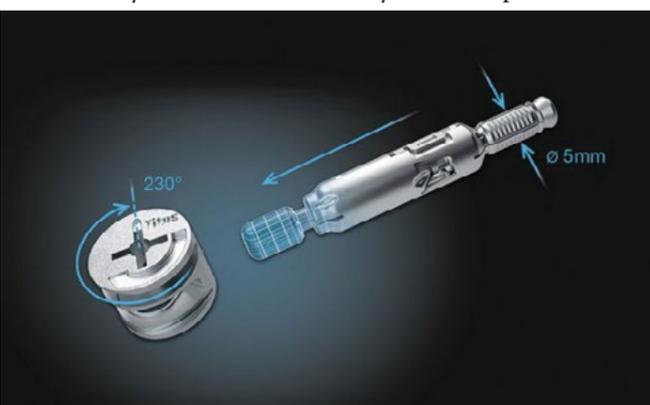
QUICKFIT TL5 DOWELS HELPING TO REDUCE ASSEMBLY TIMES FOR KITCHEN FITTERS

THE new and innovative Quickfit TL5 full metal jacket dowels from cabinet hardware expert, Titus, provide strong, reliable joints in all types of wooden materials, including MDF, chipboard and solid wood.

This means that it is no longer necessary to use different dowels for different materials, or to re-inforce joints by adding supplementary wooden dowels.

In addition, the new dowels – which are part of the Titus “Engineered for Your Kitchen” programme – offer fast, tool-free insertion, reducing assembly time by up to 50 Per cent for home-assembled furniture.

Alternatively, for maximum efficiency in volume production



applications, they can be inserted automatically using Titus FastFit machines. Quickfit TL5 dowels, which are used in conjunction with Titus Cam5000 cams, incorporating an expanding steel sleeve that provides high resistance to torsion and pull out.

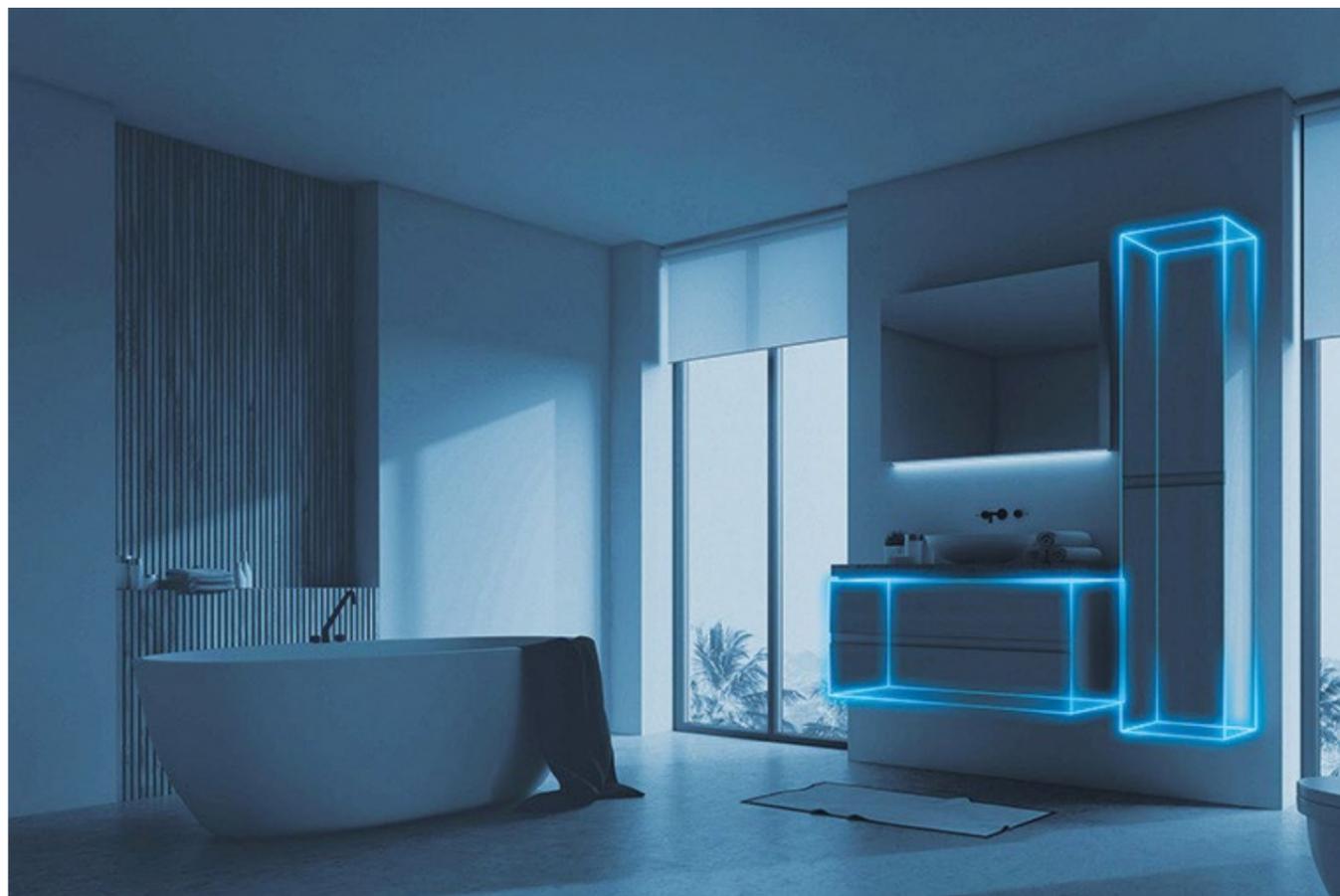
This ensures rigid furniture construction, with complete freedom from the tendency for joints to loosen over time. Furniture using the dowels can also be disassembled and re-assembled repeatedly without compromising joint integrity.

The dowels are designed for insertion into a 5mm hole and, on insertion, they positively and reliably engage with the hole, greatly simplifying subsequent assembly steps. When edge inserted, the dowels immediately engage with the cam and remain securely positioned until the cam is tightened.

A further key feature is that the special design of the dowel head adopted for these innovative and time-saving products means that the performance of Quickfit TL5 dowels is unaffected by edge-to-hole-centre (ETHC) tolerances of up to ± 1mm. Therefore, they easily accommodate not only drilling inconsistencies, but also the natural movement of wooden panels.

The dowels can be supplied in versions to suit ETHC dimensions of 24mm and 34mm. The required hole diameter for the face board is 5mm and for the edge board 8mm. The minimum hole depth in the face board is 12.5mm.

Want to find out more? Visit www.titusplus.com



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NEW SALES DIRECTOR APPOINTED BY INTU

INTU is continuing its drive for commercial growth with the appointment of Lee Miles as the company's new sales director.

Lee joins the team to help develop the INTU brand and strengthen its relationship with the trade, as well as helping to amplify the consumer offering.

Having worked across all channels of the bathroom, plumbing and kitchen sectors, the 49-year-old brings excellent strategic process and analytical capabilities to the INTU sales team.

Lee started out as one of the youngest sales representatives at Armitage Shanks - aged just 22.

Over the past 30 years he has held senior sales roles in various blue chip industry brands, including Ideal Standard, Twyford, Vaillant Boilers, Methven, Quinn Radiators and Duravit.

Lee enjoys the challenge of managing and developing sales teams.

‘This is an exciting opportunity to bring big brand thinking and my 30 years of industry sales



experience to INTU,’ says Lee Miles enthusiastically.

‘INTU is driven by innovation and a desire to bring the latest technology to the masses and I’m delighted to be part of their journey.

‘Together we will spread further brand awareness - particularly with the trade and retail audiences, ensuring that we strengthen all our routes to market,’ adds Lee.

‘INTU has a strong track record in direct to customer sales. My strategic focus is to expand this into the trade and retail channels,’ says Lee.

‘We have the ability to develop new products in new categories and will quickly build trust with new customers through our ability to make their lives easier,’ he concludes.

‘We are very excited to welcome Lee into the team and to help our INTU brand establish its trade relationships. We pride ourselves for our innovation and development as a brand and having Lee on board will help our mission of making a positive change to people’s lives reach far and wide,’ says managing director at INTU, Kieran Taylor-Bradshaw.

Want to find out more? Visit www.intu boilingwatertaps.co.uk



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TAPPING INTO NEW TALENT

HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT FLOORING FOR YOUR KITCHEN

NO home renovation is complete without new flooring. Even in situations where home-owners have decided on everything else, choosing flooring can be a challenge.

Quorn Stone, a leading retailer of high-quality natural stone and porcelain flooring, paving and tiles in the UK, shares its advice on the key considerations when choosing a floor tile for your interior.

‘Purchasing a stone, or porcelain floor is an investment for the home and one that often takes careful consideration. Our advice is to always go neutral in your chosen floor covering for ground floor spaces and instead inject colour through paint colours and accessories. A lick of paint is far easier to change in years to come than installing a different floor,’ explains director at Quorn Stone director, Isabel Fernandez.

Choose a tile that suits your kitchen size

‘A smaller kitchen requires careful thought and consideration to give the illusion of a larger space. Contrary to popular belief, we often find that a larger tile can work well at achieving this.

‘A smaller tile results in a large number of grout joints, which can enclose the space and detract the eye from the tile. We often suggest a 900mm x 600mm tile, as it is a versatile size that works well in both smaller and larger areas.

‘Alternatively wood effect porcelain is becoming increasingly popular in tighter spaces, due to its long and narrow format – if you choose a complementary grout colour it makes the grout less noticeable which, again, helps to open the space out,’ explains Isabel Fernandez.

Flooring that’ll elevate a colour scheme

‘Grey kitchens have become extremely popular in recent years and, as a neutral colour, it lends itself to many options for flooring. If a contemporary feel is required, we recommend going with a large format, grey stone effect porcelain tile – minimal grout joints combined with low tonal variation from tile to tile to



Cordelia White Stone Effect Porcelain floor



Bordeaux Aged Chateau Limestone flooring.



Silver Cloud Softly Worn Limestone.

provide a sleek, modern look. If a more classic/traditional style is desired, we often find going with a light coloured tumbled limestone with a grey undertone works well; the hint of grey ties the floor in with the kitchen and the tumbled edge suggests an aged floor laid for many years.

'Opting for a lighter base tone avoids the space becoming dominated by the grey, which often produces a more contemporary/industrial feel,' advises Isabel Fernandez.

Choose a tile that suits your lifestyle

'Natural stone flooring can be one of the most forgiving floor coverings if the right stone and finish are chosen. Naturally, some stones will be denser than others, which provides more durability. However, all natural stone will be subject to a little wear and tear over the years.

'A tumbled finish provides an aged look, its worn edges, textured surface and natural markings makes it extremely forgiving with day to day crumbs and dirt.

'On the other hand, stone effect porcelain has come a long way in recent years and the designs produced in Italy and Spain are extremely indistinguishable from stone! A porcelain tile is non-porous and will therefore provide a stain proof option, which can be preferable with young children,' concludes Isabel Fernandez.

Want to find out more?
Visit www.mystonefloor.com



Monte Carlo tumbled floor tiles.

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Versailles Limestone Softly Aged flooring.

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