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Going underground: invisible houses

Could building a subterranean home be the answer to all your planning permission problems? Sophie Vening unearths how it's done



MARK WILKINSON

WINTER PROMOTION

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INTERIORS

8

THE ONLY WAY IS UP Vector wall tiles, main, by Elaine Yan Ling Ng for Studioart, from €1,000 (£883); Natalia Miyar used a Kitoko mirror by Marc De Berny, left

All that glitters has its shining moment

Innovation in textile design has led to a madness for metallics, says Tory Kingdon

decorations, Christmas rejoice: you can embrace all things that shimmer again. Metallics can add sparkle to your home far beyond the festive season.

"Architecture, interior decoration and fashion are all being heavily influenced by the Sixties and Seventies at the moment," says Alberto Pezzato, design director at the Rubelli Design Studio. "Metallics were used a vibrant botanical print enriched with lot at that time, and are now having a revival.

f it feels like an age since collection, the luxury Italian textile you packed away your house has launched Aurum, a fabric created from weaves of pure gold on silk and inspired by the tradition of the Venetian "tiraoro", artisans who made gold yarn for the manufacture of textiles, clothing and jewellery. A number of new fabric collections

include gold and silver elements, and not in the weighty, lavish way you might assume. Lelièvre's Riviera collection, inspired by summer days in the south of France, includes Maguis, a gold embroidery; Olea, a soft cotton satin with olive leaf details and gold, As part of the 2018 Rubelli Venezia silver or copper metal appliqués; and

ditional fishing nets - undoubtedly the chicest net curtains you will ever see. These luxurious materials are now possible due to new techniques in textile production. This has allowed for metals such as pure gold yarn to be woven into more traditional fabrics, as well as the application of finishes special modern through printing methods. Last year, Italian textile maker Dedar

Madrague, a linen mesh interwoven

with golden thread

and inspired by tra-

ted with silver and gold splodges, cleverly applied through 3D printing techniques.

Cosmic

released

Confetti, a linen dot-

Pezzato says that these innovations have also resulted in a subtler, less gaudy approach to using golds and silvers. "We have developed a special recipe: by mixing metallics with matt navy bedroom yarns we can modulate the shine and from Essential recreate an oxidised look that is much Home, top right



SUBTLETY **IS KEY**

A dining room designed by Katharine Pooley, above; a brass and



Elaine Yan Ling Ng) and a rich bronze (designed by Massimo Brancati). They are definitely a statement choice, but one that must still be approached with caution, according to interior designer Natalia Miyar.

"Metallic leather is beautiful but can be a step too far," she says. "Subtlety is key. Small accents can go a long way, whether it's a detail in the fabric, on furniture or an objet d'art.

Matt or brushed metals are preferable too - high gloss can be a bit twee."

Interior designer Katharine Pooley agrees. "The simplest way to introduce metallics to a scheme is through accessories and finishing touches, such as vases and piping to cushions," she says. If starting entirely from scratch, however, Pooley does like to incorporate metallic elements into bespoke furniture. "In recent schemes, we have added subtle finishes such as gold gilding within the shadow gaps of wardrobes and book cases."

Walthouses and book cases. We shouldn't be fearful of mixing metallics either, adds Miyar. "Copper and bronze can look beautiful together, and really lift a scheme." The general consensus is that these two shades work well with darker, stronger hues, while silver and gold go better with soft tones such as pale blue and cream. Pezzato favours gold and bronze with deep reds, reminiscent of the Italian renaissance, but such a sumptuous look may not be for everyone.

If upholstery, curtains and wall leathers feel like too much of a commitment, there are plenty of metallic pieces on the high street to add a touch of the trend to your home, such as geometric silver cushions from Zara Home and Anthropologie's copper and bronze wall hangings.

"The key is to use metallics as highlights to a scheme," says Pooley

"These colours add a touch of luxury,

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softer on the eye," he says Leathers have also been given a

lustrous new look. Perhaps the boldest of these comes from Studioart, which has created metallic versions of its signature Leatherwall wall panels. These now come in a striking silver or gold (Vector designed by

SHINING EXAMPLES

A few sparkly things can add pizzazz to any room



MAXIMALIST Cubic sconce lighting €1,730; boca dolobo.com





GOLDEN TOUCH Set of four Mikasa stemless wine glasses

£32; creative-tops.com

MOLTEN HOT Luxe drip plant pot £30.95; audenza.com

ZIGZAG Geometric print cushion cover £19.99; zarahome.com



ARABIAN LUXURY Fez brass stool £423; artisanti.com



LIKE AN EGYPTIAN Mode towels in ink £12; christy-home.com



A SHADE

OF PINK

Brass flamingo table lamp with

ombre shade £125; audenza.

com



DANGLE IT Mirella wall hanging £88; anthropologie.com



but should do so in a way that whispers, silver and bronze should be subtle and sophisticated, but by no means out of sight.