



Fennel Green
marble tiles,
£1.65 each



House Journal

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Indulgent finish

Timeless and luxurious, marble brings with it centuries of grandeur that will instantly elevate a room. 'Monochrome' and 'minimalist' have become the buzzwords for using marble, but Bert & May's latest launch seeks to change this. The new collection of honed tiles are available in three finishes - classic White, opulent Fennel Green, and dainty Rose Pink. Available as square or herringbone tiles to give flexibility in laying, prices start at £1.65 each.



Amphibia in unlacquered brass, £189



Knock Knock in unlacquered brass, £139

DESTINY KNOCKS

'If you want something done, do it yourself' – so goes the adage, and that is exactly what Rebecca O'Keefe, founder of Gipsy Hill Hardware, did. Having spent hours searching for the perfect hardware for her front door, she used her 15 years of fashion industry experience to create Victorian-inspired numbers and knockers, which are all hand-cast in solid recycled brass and made to last a lifetime.



Apex house numbers in matt nickel, £39 each

A BRIEF HISTORY OF...

THE BUTLER'S SINK

A stalwart of the servants' quarters, the butler's sink was a workhorse. Its durable, fireclay construction and generous size meant it was able to wash everything the household could throw at it. There are two styles: the London sink, which is shallower and has no overflow; and the Belfast, which is larger and features an overflow. There are two theories to account for the design differences. The first is that the London variations were put in place to conserve water, while Belfast's plentiful water supply meant that conservation was not a factor in the design of the sink. The other suggests that London sinks were used for washing dishes in the scullery and Belfast sinks were used in the butler's pantry, where larger items were washed. Regardless, the sink's enduring style and versatility means it remains a firm favourite in our homes today.



Illustration Sarah Overs