

The Harvest Issue

Sunset

COZY

in the

WEST

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fall recipes
design ideas
travel tips
garden hacks

Wine
Country
Escapes

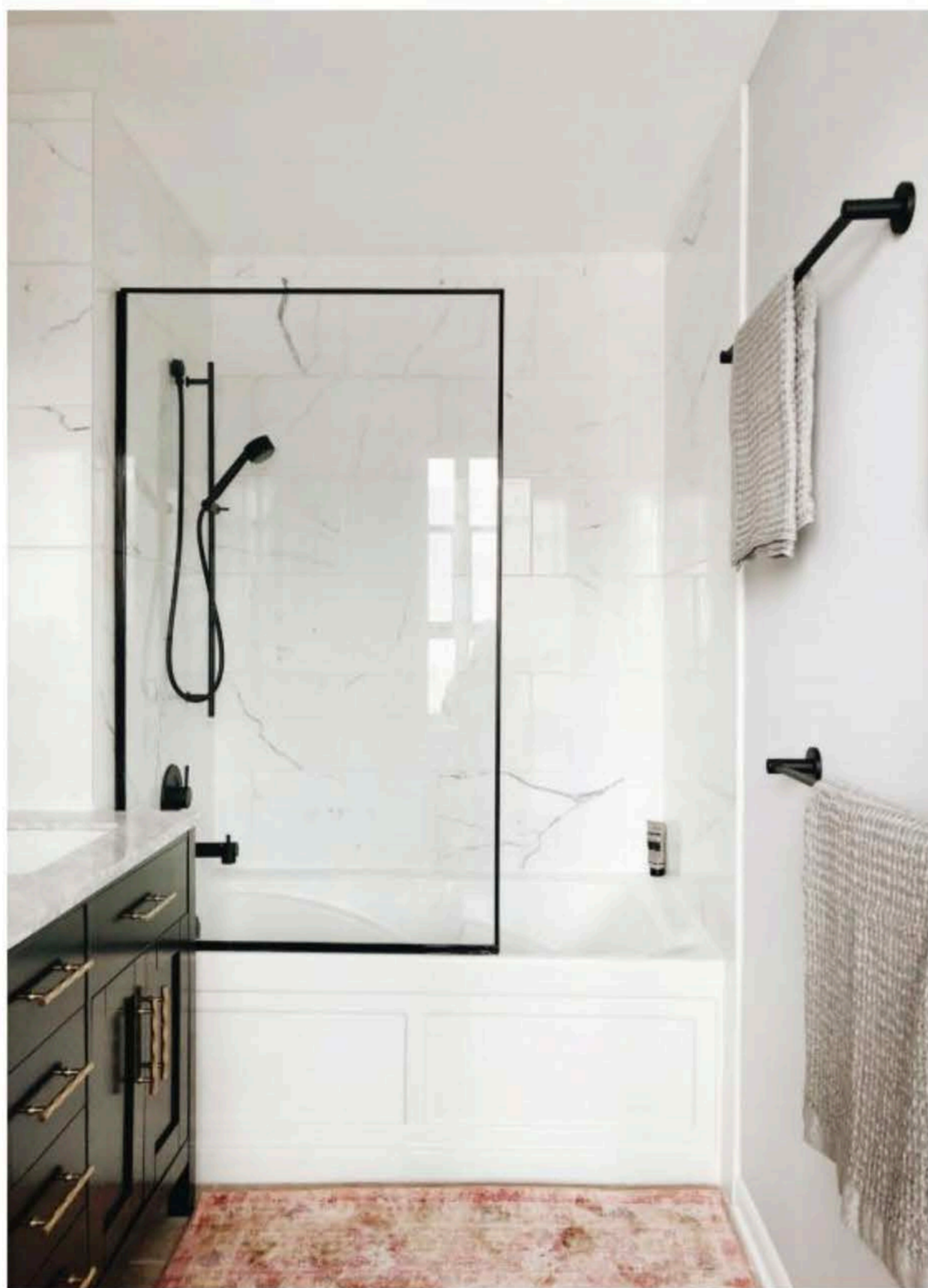
The New
Way to
Landscape

Next-Level
Craftsman
Remodel

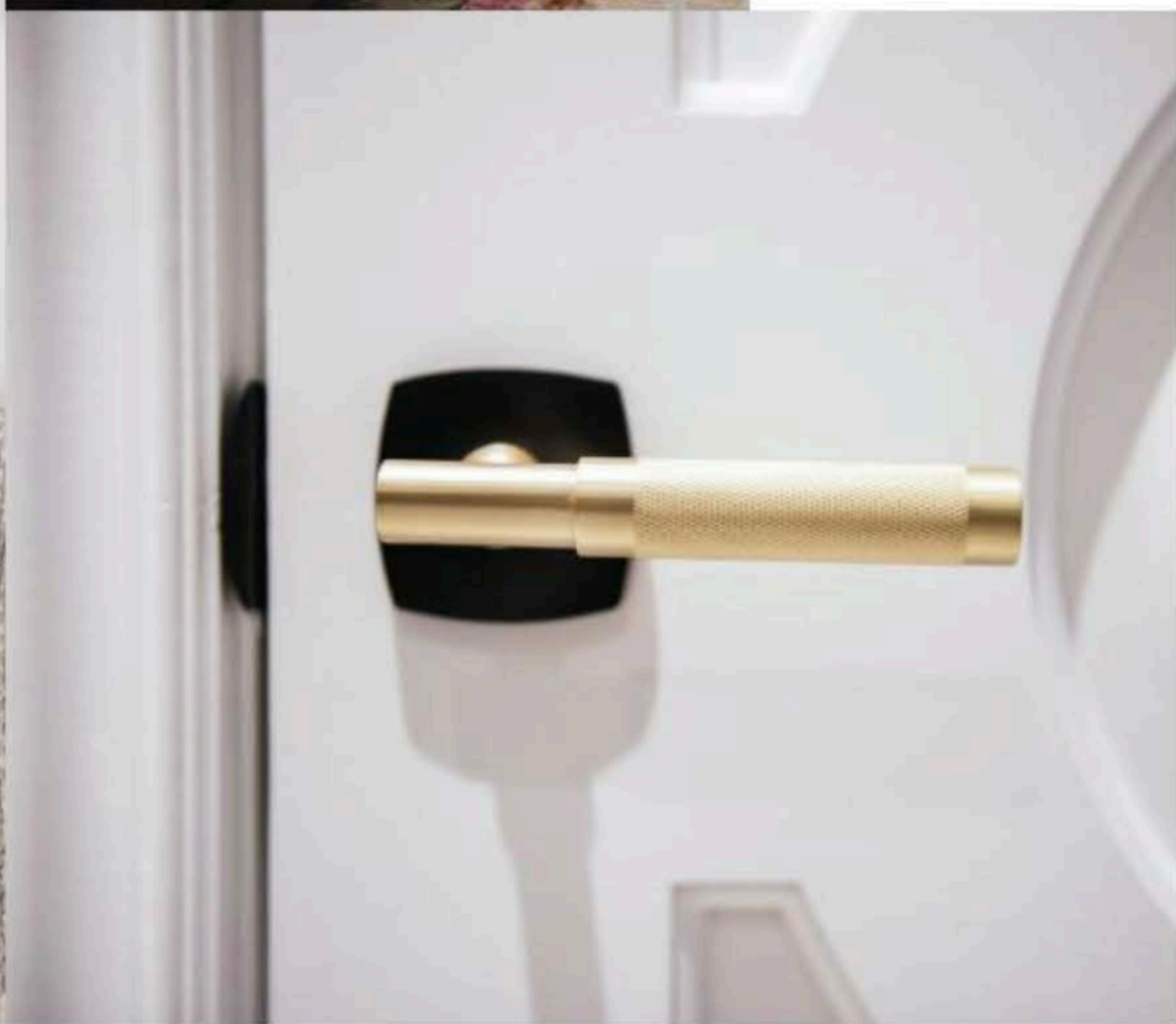
PLUS!

EASY ECO-FRIENDLY
HOME UPGRADES

ONTREND: FOCUS ON FIXTURES



Left: Emtek Tribeca cabinet pulls in satin brass finish; Below: Emtek Select T-Bar knurled door lever with urban modern rosette in satin brass/flat black split finish; Bottom: Emtek Select knobs with conical stems in knurled, and straight knurled.



Indulge us for a moment to talk about kitchen and bath fixture trends the same way we do food fads. Polished chrome is the standard, meat-and-potatoes choice that will never go out of style. Brushed nickel has a caramel macchiato vibe—big in 2005, but a little decadent and there’s a chance you could regret it later. Unlacquered brass hardware is like a poké bowl. It was suddenly everywhere around 2018 but might not be for everyone.

Enter matte black faucets, door handles, and cabinet pulls, which are like the plant-based burgers of hardware design. They burst on the scene over the last couple of years, and they took a minute to adjust to. But they’re surprisingly good. When you mix them with gold and brass, they can be very, very good. And they’re here to stay.

“Black and gold bathrooms got very hot very fast,” says William Zhang, Director of Design and Product Innovation for Emtek, a door hardware brand based in Southern California that specializes in custom-assembled, mix-and-match knobs, plates, and pulls. “If you’re a hardware brand that doesn’t offer a black finish with gold accents in 2021, you’re missing out.”



Rob Diaz, a Los Angeles-based designer with a long, celebrated career in residential real estate, is a fan—and he knows a thing or two about trends. “I don’t like anything with too much shine,” explains Diaz, who’s known for outfitting kitchens and bathrooms with unusual slabs of honed marble, soapstone, sanded pale oak floors, and high-end brass. “My first choice for faucets would always be to go with aged brass. But economics play a part in these decisions. Not everyone wants to spend \$20,000 on faucets and hardware for a bathroom. Matte black is more economical, and it’s an easier way to get a clean line. And I’m seeing that buyers and homeowners are ready for a darker, moodier feel.”

“Black is great because it’s so versatile, and so easy to use,” adds Zhang. “And you can make a big statement with contrast, and mix it with various elements like gold, marble, or a bit of chrome.”

Will black and gold ever get old? It’s hard to say.

“I think it will hold up well,” Diaz says.

Only time will tell if it will turn out to be more like pizza—always a winner, and in it for the long haul.

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stem and rosette
for a custom look



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: GREG BIRMAN/@GREGBIRMAN (2); KARIN BOHN/@KARINBOHN/HOUSE OF BOHN/@HOUSEOFBOHN