

A kitchen is where we go to cook, entertain and enjoy food, so it's essential to find a design that suits your lifestyle and fulfills your needs. We talked to three kitchen experts about the latest trends and the best materials to use, read on for their top tips.

BY EMMA FREEMAN

KITCHENS *by design*

Kitchen by Sydney Kitchens

SYDNEY KITCHENS

National Sales and Design Manager for Sydney Kitchens, Susan Hasler offers her expert advice on good kitchen design.

What are some kitchen trends heading our way?

The standout trend is the creative way cabinets are being configured in kitchens. Structured, formal straight runs are being replaced by cube shelving, stacked boxes and display shelving which bring a furniture-like style into the kitchen – this mirrors the trend toward open-plan living and creates a seamless flow.

Mixing textures in the kitchen is an inspiring trend and brings depth and warmth to a room. The combination of gloss cabinetry combined with materials like glass, timber or concrete surfaces, for instance, is being used to create truly individual spaces.

Setting pops of colour like citrusy lemons and limes against black and stainless steel is ideal for those with a more bold sense of style – the result is stunning.

Favourite benchtop material?

Carrera Marble from Gitani Stone for its durability and luxurious finish. Solid surface benchtops, however, are another great option. Being non-porous, they are hygienic for food preparation, plus they are easy to clean and are a cost effective alternative.

Budget kitchen design tip?

Bringing furniture pieces and artwork into the kitchen is a great way to add individuality and can be easily changed around.

Any tips for getting more storage space?

Design concepts such as deeper, wider



drawers save space and allow for easy access to hard to reach pots and pans whilst pull-out baskets and shelves are a brilliant way to increase usable space and keep pantries organised. Creating dedicated storage areas for spices and cleaning products will help reduce clutter in the cupboards.

Preferred splashback?

Matching a stone splashback to the benchtop gives the kitchen a very polished look and adds a sense of sophistication. Tiles however are enjoying resurgence as new and

interesting designs become available. For a modern, streamlined look that's also easy to maintain, I would recommend glass.

TOP THREE KITCHEN DESIGN TIPS.

1. Be upfront with your kitchen designer and share your budget, your wish list and how you plan to use your kitchen. Armed with this information along with ideas about your space and style, your kitchen designer will tailor a kitchen to best suit you.
2. Colour fashions change so it's advisable to choose a neutral scheme for your kitchen and update with coloured accessories.
3. Choose an accredited company which complies with Australian and International standards. A company like Sydney Kitchens is Australian owned, manufactures locally and maintains control over quality.



For more information on Sydney Kitchens, call (02) 9967 8789 or visit www.sydneykitchens.com.au