

SIZZLING KITCHENS

Straight from the LivingKitchen Design Expo in Cologne, Germany, the team at Sydney Kitchens dishes up the top five kitchen trends heading our way from Europe.



1. THIN ON TOP

One of the most prevalent trends seen at the expo was ultra-thin and sleek benchtops which Europeans are favouring for a streamlined look and luxury finish. Thicknesses of 20mm or less were displayed in natural stone, glass, acrylic surfaces and stainless steel. Interestingly, the high-end kitchen companies had the thinnest benchtops!

2. COMMUNICATIVE KITCHEN

The kitchen space is set to take on an even bigger role as the communication centre of the home. For instance, the Interactive Grid System, developed by German kitchen manufacturer SieMatic in conjunction with Miele, looks similar to Miele oven appliances, but is a touch-screen entertainment unit providing instant access to the internet, television, photo uploads and live recipes, as well as iPod connectivity and digital radio capabilities.

3. COLOUR IN

A neutral palette out-shone colour, with white featuring heavily alongside metallic hues in champagne, charcoal, dark chocolate and ocean blue. Textured

timber finishes were everywhere, particularly in dark horizontal wood grains. Stainless steel is also being used to stunning effect on doors and panels, giving a sleek architectural aesthetic to high-end kitchens.

4. VISUAL IMPACT

Oversize pendant lighting and directional accent lighting was displayed to great effect, creating a focal point to the entertaining zone of the kitchen. Just as lighting is important in accentuating architecture, feature lighting in a kitchen is taking the visual impact to a whole new level, such as cabinets and drawers that light up with internal LED lights as you open them.

5. NEW TECHNOLOGY

Leading German kitchen manufacturer Hettich showcased the latest in soft-closing drawers and door technology including its Sensys hinges with an in-built soft-close mechanism. Internal drawers fronted with aluminium and glass panels were stylish, while dark grey drawer interiors were an eye-catching contrast to the kitchen utensils they stored.



TOP: CaesarStone white kitchen in Classico Snow. MIDDLE: Oversize pendant lighting as seen at LivingKitchen Design Expo. Image courtesy of Sydney Kitchens. BOTTOM: Horizontal wood grains as seen at LivingKitchen Design Expo. Image courtesy of Sydney Kitchens.