



Kitchen Direction

As the hub of the modern family home, kitchens today represent far more than just a place where meals are cooked...

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The saying goes 'home is where the heart is' which these days often translates into 'home is where the kitchen is'. They operate as a central location where families get together - to share stories, jokes, laughter and catch up on all the day's activities. Kitchen trends for 2011 see us incorporating more personality into this dynamic family space and moving away from the completely neutral colour palette we have seen dominate this arena over the past decade.

Below are The International School of Colour and Design (iscd's) top five accessible kitchen trends for 2011:

1. COLOUR IT UP

Australia has long had a love affair with neutral kitchens, incorporating the use of stone, glass and warm timbers accessorised with stainless steel appliances. However a recent trend has seen many consumers wanting to incorporate a shot of colour or point of difference into their generally

monochromatic kitchen colour palette. Italian kitchen manufacturer SMEG has jumped on this bandwagon with the release of their retro and colourful fridges and dishwashers. Colours such as lollipop pink, cherry red, lime green, powder blue and tangerine are being embraced by consumers looking to add a little 'something' to their kitchen.

2. MIX & MATCH

Another dominant kitchen trend sees the use of mixing and matching material. Until now, kitchens were generally designed with a particular style in mind but the trend this year is to mix and match materials and styles to impart a unique look. Add a dash of this, a pinch of that and embrace different finishes and textures giving you the ability to build your own 'brand'. Top of iscd's list is a look that involves using two or more different types of counter tops (for example stainless steel plus wood or Laminex plus stone).

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This brings a bold and dynamic feel to the kitchen environment.

3. SPLASHBACK ART

Let your splashback work as a piece of art. A beautiful piece of natural stone may be all the focal point your kitchen needs. Bored with plain-coloured splashbacks? Turn your kitchen wall into a giant canvas by having personalised designs printed onto a glass splashback. The result is stunning. A cheaper alternative is the use of laminate. Available in a range of patterns and colours (make sure you check it can withstand the heat from hotplates), this is an easy way to make your kitchen pop!

4. DESTINATION ORGANISATION

Organised cabinet interiors are a must for any new kitchen in 2011. Even IKEA is following the lead of high-end kitchen manufacturers by offering drawer and

cabinet inserts to organise everything from bowls to spatulas to plates to spoons. Everything should have its own place! Keep your countertops clear of appliances and 'stuff' and let them act as a place to display a unique sculptural piece or a work of art.

5. EMBRACE YOUR CURVES

Designers are starting to introduce curved shapes to the kitchen, just like other parts of the house. Gone are the days of sharp, straight and blocked looks. We are seeing them gradually being replaced by a softer appearance. The easiest way to add curved shapes and bump up your kitchen with a contemporary look is through the introduction of rounded sinks and curved cabinets and faucets. If you can afford a bit more, think about adding a curved kitchen island (be careful though, it still needs to harmonise with your kitchen).

Be guided by these trends if you are about to remodel your kitchen or undertake a total renovation, however, always remember, be



true to yourself and your family's personality. Don't follow trends because you feel you have to, embrace the ones that you are happy with! **P**



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