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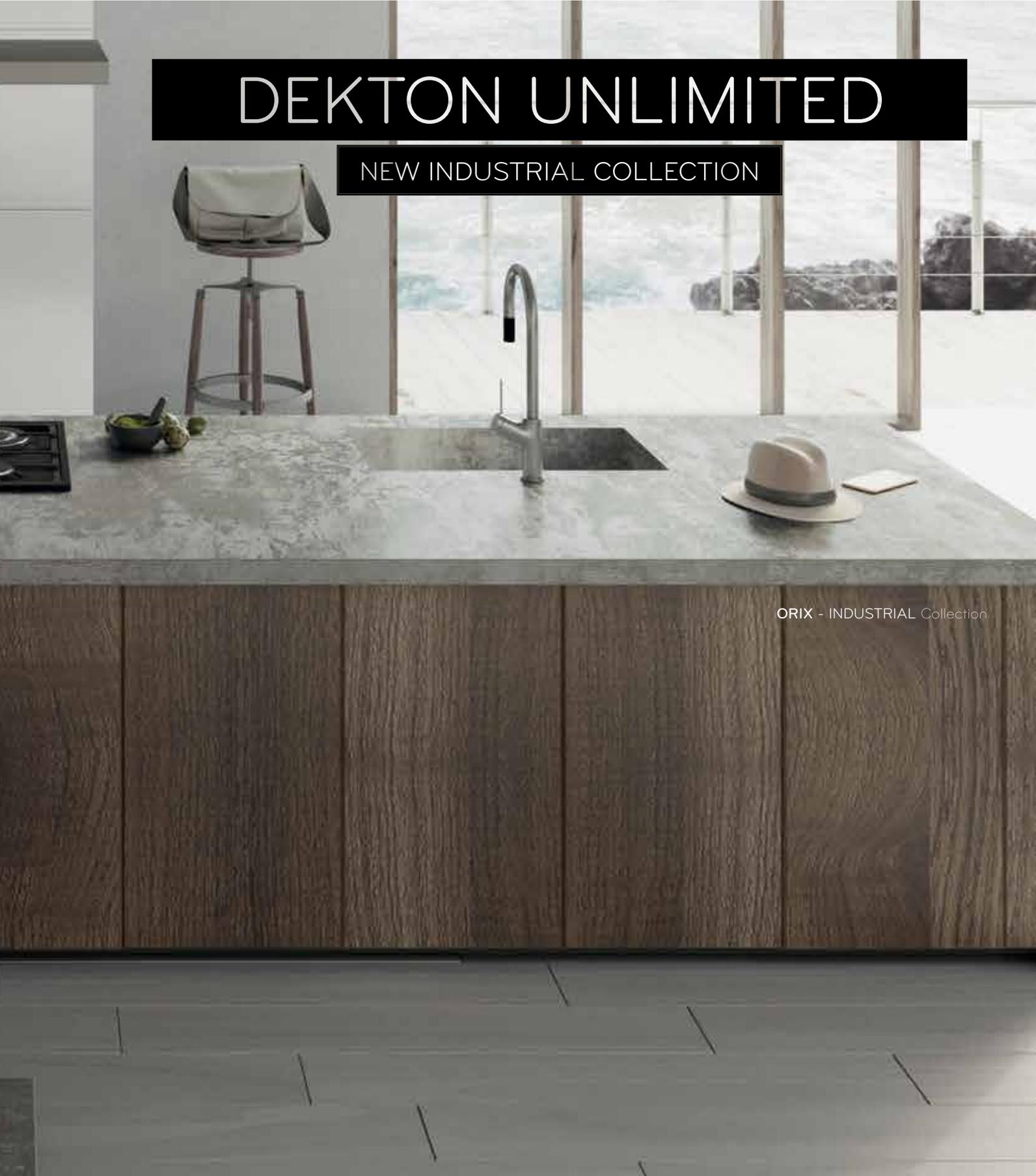
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SMART KITCHEN GADGETRY AND BEAUTIFUL BATHROOMS

I cannot believe it is that time of year again when we bring readers our exciting, jam-packed *SA Home Owner Kitchens and Bathrooms 2018* special edition.

With the kitchen being the heart of the home, we have come up with ideas on how it can serve that purpose. This includes saving important resources like electricity, water, food, time and sanity, says Guinevere Davies in her kitchen gadgetry feature, see page 28.

Flooring often plays a vital role in determining your overall kitchen look and feel, and unfortunately we often leave this to the end stage of designing the kitchen. Choosing your flooring first is a good idea as this will guide you when deciding on wall finishings – see page 22.

The same rule applies to cabinetry. Your flooring needs to compliment your countertops and cabinetry as well as your walls. Hasmita Amtha presents you with a guide to finding the perfect fit for your kitchen on page 16.

Helen Grange talks about carving colour into your bathroom by looking at how you can introduce colour through mixing metallics to give it the ultimate modern look – see page 46. We cannot talk about bathrooms without mentioning tiles, and in this feature, we give you all the latest tiling trends, see page 34. Gone are the days when you would spend as little time as possible in your bathroom. These days it's the opposite – and it's all thanks to the ever-changing bathroom technology that allows you to have a spa experience in the comfort of your own home.

We also look at the vital issue of water saving, and share with you ways you can achieve this while enjoying the ultimate shower experience.

We hope you enjoy the read!

Kelebogile Nondzaba

“Create your dream kitchen with these sleek, modern designs.”

COVER
Picture courtesy of Sterlings.



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blu_line



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TALKING COUNTERTOPS

With your kitchen often being the most used space in your home, you need to find the ideal surface that is suited to you and your family. As Stephen Grobler of Green Leaf Kitchens advises: “Keep it simple and practical.” With this in mind, there are a few great surface materials that will ensure you fall in love with your kitchen each time you enter it.

Neil Sterley of Silestone by Cosentino says: “Choosing a countertop is one of the most important decisions when designing a kitchen. One must think about functionality, looks, costs, maintenance, and a plethora of other considerations before selecting a surface. When it comes to deciding between quartz, granite and marble countertops, however, benefits and drawbacks of each are fairly well defined and simple to choose from. Quartz is an incredibly tough material that can easily withstand everyday use with very little maintenance. The resins used in the manufacturing of quartz countertops provide a non-porous surface that is essentially stain-proof. No sealing is ever needed.”

Megan Schumann of International Slab Sales and Caesarstone agrees: “Quartz is more than beautiful; it is also one of nature’s strongest minerals. Engineered to last a lifetime, Caesarstone quartz surfaces are impervious to stains, scratches and cracks, and are heat- and cold-resistant.

“Our surfaces retain the cool, tactile qualities of natural stone while offering design freedom with almost unlimited application possibilities. Caesarstone surfaces combine form and function, allowing for the most diverse, durable and practical applications.”

Defining your kitchen’s look and feel, the cabinetry and the countertop are two of the elements that are most important, and therefore require careful consideration. We take a look at what’s on the market so you can make an informed decision.

TOP TIP

"LIKE WITH ANY RENOVATION OR NEW BUILD, BUDGETS CAN EASILY BE PASSED AS THOUGH THEY HAVEN'T EXISTED. ALIGN YOUR TASTES WITH WHAT YOUR POCKET ALLOWS, OR ALLOW YOUR POCKET TO APPEASE YOUR DESIRES. REMEMBER THAT IT'S MORE WORTH YOUR WHILE TO SPEND MONEY ON FUNCTIONAL ITEMS THAN IT IS ON DECORATIVE ITEMS. ALSO BEAR IN MIND THE PRODUCT THAT YOU ARE PURCHASING: LIKE WITH EVERYTHING, A BRAND GENERALLY HAS A QUALITY AND GUARANTEE BACKING, ALONG WITH A STANDARDISED QUALITY-CONTROL SYSTEM THAT YOU WON'T GET WITH MANY LOCAL MANUFACTURERS."
- EYAAZ WAJA OF VESUVIO LUXURY INTERIORS

Another trendy material is sintered stone. Neolith offers a high-performance, highly resistant range of sintered stone surfaces that can be designed to mimic quarry-hewn stones, such as marble, as well as other materials, including: terrazzo, beton, corten steel and even wood. Mar Esteve Cortés of Neolith advises that "this 100% natural product is suitable for both worktop and cabinetry applications across residential kitchens".

Specialising in quartz, granite, marble and sintered porcelain, Craig Gammage of Tectonic Stone advises that when it comes to granite and marble, it's important to be aware that both are "porous and may easily stain and require more care with ongoing sealing and treatments".

Gammage adds: "Home owners should keep in mind these material values and maintenance required before they start their selection process. Most engineered surfaces now also offer an engineered product with a marble effect/pattern on the slab – this could also be an option to achieve the natural overall look without the hassle of maintenance."

Kitchen specialists from Fabri advise that choosing high-quality finishes is essential for a kitchen to stand the test of time. "Consider products that are innovative, such as nano-tech surfaces that regenerate from minor scratches with merely a wet cloth. This type of technology is revolutionising the longevity of countertops."

TAKE A CAB

When it comes to cabinetry, there are varying trends; however the movement of strong clean lines are favoured by all South Africans. According to Clinton van Breda of Universal Kitchens & Granite, there are two distinctive trends that sit on either end of the spectrum.

"Ultra-modern is very popular: making use of handleless and touch-sensitive technology, high-gloss finishes and very thin or very chunky worktops. This style is often achieved by using two contrasting colours and textures at different levels throughout the room. On the other end, the country-style design is still loved: painted white satin shaker doors, often with an island in a contrasting colour. Shades of soft blue and green are very popular. This style makes use of natural granite, or a composite with a marble-look grain."

Having visited EuroCucina, the biennial international kitchen fair that takes place in Milan, earlier this year, John Dammermann of Easylife Kitchens highlights the trend of texture in cabinetry, such as a high-gloss finish being paired with wood or even stainless steel. "It's all about the visual appeal of mixing and matching," he says. >



Future Classics



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Get cooking with the Le Creuset cookbook: A collection of recipes from our French table. www.lecreuset.co.za

Both functional and decorative lighting have a place in the kitchen. There'll always be a good spot for the Joel Pendant by Astro from Newport Lighting Concepts and Design.
www.newport.co.za





Linear Concepts



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While keeping abreast of the latest trends aids you in knowing what's on the market, the functionality of your kitchen is most important, especially when it comes to cabinetry. Philip Richards of blu_line advises home owners to focus on innovative trends that are functional. "The focus has to be on functionality; ensuring every task is catered for. Think through the detail. Consider how you work in your kitchen, your storage needs and design and organise the internals of the cabinets accordingly."

Regarding functionality, Lisa Buck of Slavin & Co believes that space planning is very important. "You need to make sure you are transparent about what you need out of your kitchen and how you use the space to make sure you get the most out of a new layout/design."

Making your kitchen more efficient, Espe Mostert of Future Classics recommends that you "use big drawers with dividers; this ensures that space optimised and hardware costs are minimised".

With thanks to blu_line, Caesarstone, EasyLife Kitchens, Fabri, Future Classics, Green Leaf Kitchens, Linear Concepts, Neolith, Schmidt Kitchen and Interior Solutions, Silestone by Cosentino, Slavin & Co, Tectonic Stone, Universal Kitchens & Granite and Vesuvio Luxury Interiors



Caesarstone

KITCHEN TIPS

1 Why is lighting so important in a kitchen?

Safety – cooking and cleaning up can be hazardous tasks so having sufficient lighting is a must to ensure one can see what they're doing and avoid injury.

Aesthetics – well-considered lighting is not only functional, it also plays a role in how your kitchen looks.

Visibility – lighting in strategic areas of your kitchen is essential for reading recipes and ingredients on packaging, as well as for finding things in cupboards.



2 What is the best starting point when designing a kitchen lighting scheme?

Draw up a floor plan, identify areas where tasks will be performed, and establish your budget.

3 What type of lighting needs to be included in a kitchen?

(eg. task, ambient, accent and decorative) What purpose does each serve?

Task lighting – provides concentrated and direct lighting for tasks like cooking and washing up.

Accent lighting – great for bringing attention to a unique feature in your kitchen such as a prized piece of artwork on the wall or to accentuate pretty marble detailing in your countertops.

Ambient – illuminates the entire room and can sometimes be controlled with a dimmer switch.

4 How easy is it to add different lighting elements to an existing kitchen if you would just like to do a lighting makeover rather than a total redesign?

It's fairly easy. If you're looking to give your kitchen an updated feel, simply swap out old fixtures and replace them with new pendant lights or recessed lighting for a more modern look.

5 What are your top tips for designing a kitchen lighting scheme? (eg. separate switches, dimmers etc.)

Ensure you have three layers of lighting – task, ambient, accent.

Work with three levels of lighting – recessed, hanging, under-cabinet. Invest in a dimmer switch so that lighting can be adjusted to meet specific needs or create an atmosphere.

6 What type of decorative lights are on trend for kitchens this year?

70s inspired shapes, matt black, industrial with a touch of vintage.

ALWAYS ASK

"IT'S IMPERATIVE TO KNOW WHAT WARRANTIES AND GUARANTEES THE COMPANY YOU'RE USING OFFERS, AND FOR WHAT (WORKING PARTS AND/OR FURNITURE). ALSO, FIND OUT HOW THE CABINETRY IS MADE – HOW IS THE UNIT MADE/ASSEMBLED, HOW AND WHERE THE HOLES ARE DRILLED – AND THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE CABINETRY AND COUNTERTOPS."

– DELENE KITCHING OF SCHMIDT KITCHENS



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FABULOUS FLOORS & WONDERFUL WALLS

WITH TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES USHERING IN A RANGE OF VERSATILE OPTIONS FOR KITCHEN FLOORING AND WALLS, HOME OWNERS HAVE MORE OPTIONS THAN EVER, WRITES **LISA WITEPSKI**

Kitchen design can be tricky: this is a space that not only needs to make a statement – it must also be sufficiently hard-wearing to withstand heavy traffic. What’s more, the materials used to meet this requirement must ensure hygiene, too.

This is why large-format tiles are gaining ground, says Heidi Masson of Studio Masson. “These have a more impressive look than small tiles, instantly adding a look of luxury to any space. More than this, there are fewer grout lines when you lay big tiles. This is important in the kitchen: grout is inevitably problematic, as it’s hard to keep clean and discolours easily. The result is a bold, seamless look.”

Masson is especially enthusiastic about the use of large-format tiles on walls. But, she warns, large panels can become expensive, which is why it’s a good idea to use them only in work areas, such as splashbacks. In all other places, a mix of paint and tiling can be extremely effective.

For Sean Philpott of Tile Collage, using tiles on the kitchen wall is one of the quickest ways to create a focal point. He prefers a glossy finish, because this adds to the overall aesthetic and is more hygienic than a tile with texture, which can be hard to clean.

DI-VINYL LOOKS

The large-format trend has also made its way into vinyl flooring, says Philpott. He notes that planks can now go up to 450cm x 900cm in length. But increased size is not the only new option available to home owners: thanks to digital imaging, there is now a wide range of colours and textures on offer. “In the past, you may have been limited to traditional wood-look planks. Now you can replicate almost any finish on your floor, including concrete textures.”

Brando Drepaniotis of John Dore Flooring agrees that the broad choice available is responsible for pushing the popularity of vinyl. Interestingly, however, he’s noticed that many home owners opt for a classic appearance: grey is in demand, while the black and white tiled look of retro kitchens is also a firm favourite.

Philpott says vinyl is an exceptionally good choice for the kitchen because of its warmth and softness underfoot, which gives it a luxurious feel. It’s also highly waterproof – but, warns Drepaniotis, it’s vital that vinyl is installed with care. “Use a moisture barrier before installation,” he advises.

Philpott, meanwhile, recommends glue-down planks over the clip-on variety. "The clip-on is, essentially, a floating floor. With the extremes of South African weather, the vinyl will undergo excessive expansion and contraction, which may cause tenting," he explains.

TALKING TERRAZZO

According to Coral Sachs of WOMAG, terrazzo has captured the imagination of home owners – but, to prevent material complications, most are opting for a porcelain-look tile.

Philpott agrees that this can be a tricky material to work with. Because it is extremely porous, it is highly absorbent and can quickly become discoloured. Any terrazzo surface must therefore be treated with sealant before use.

Something else to look out for: terrazzo tends to be fairly thick, so if your kitchen leads directly onto another room floored with a thinner material, you may be faced with uneven surfaces.

What's great about terrazzo, says Drepaniotis, is the creative leeway it gives you. Mix and match between colours like blues, greens or neutrals, and add a metallic for a pop of sophistication. Be wary, though: this material is still fairly new in South Africa, and you may battle to find a contractor with the experience and know-how to install it correctly, he says.

Sachs's tip? "Before you commit to any material, consider the size of your kitchen, the colour of your kitchen tops and cupboards, and whether you will want to change the floor again any time soon. Budget-wise, weigh up whether you can afford the real deal, or if you should go for a lookalike product."

CHEVRON APPEAL

The herringbone effect which first gained prominence last year is still very much in evidence. This is a classic motif that will look great in any room, kitchens included. While you can of course use solid wood tiles, this might not be wise in an area where splashes of water and other liquid are a common occurrence and make care a rather complex matter. Drepaniotis says that neither oil- nor ammonia-based cleaners are a good option here; the first because it leaves a sticky residue which attracts dirt and grease, and the second because it will scratch the material.

TOP FIVE

Make these products a part of your kitchen update kit.

- AfriSam's flagship product, All Purpose Cement, is the ideal for concrete, mortar and plaster requirements, offering enhanced performance and durability.
- Coprox Masonry Waterproofing and Coprox Waterproof Dualcoat eliminate the need for plaster, paint and tiles, providing an attractive and unique naturally aged, mottled and rustic finish, which becomes more pronounced over time.
- To clean floors, Drepaniotis recommends the following ranges: Loba, Bona and FloorworX. All remove dirt effectively without scratching surfaces.
- The large-format tiles making up Studio Masson's Maximum Collection are available in a range of colours and finishes, from polished marble to concrete.
- WOMAG's Heritage Collection allows you to create a carpet effect in the kitchen by blending feature tiles with plain and neutral colours.

You can, however, replicate the pattern with any other material, vinyl included. This is probably the most cost-effective option, says Calvin Bragg of MacNeil. "Remember that wastage is high with this motif, and will add 30% to your overall costs," he points out. ▲

With thanks to Coprox, John Dore Flooring, Studio Masson, Tile Collage and WOMAG



GETTING IT RIGHT WITH VINYL

Before you select vinyl as your favoured flooring, it's crucial to make sure certain basics are in place. Bragg says the floor must be completely level. "This is a plastic-based product, so if there are any cracks or flaws, the vinyl will settle into undulations which collect dirt, grease and grime."

It's also important to prevent all exposure to sunlight – vinyl's tendency to expand and contract in response to changes in temperature can cause the flooring to shift after its installation, Bragg says. UV exposure can also cause discolouration, Masson says. The best way to avoid this is by installing appropriate window treatments.



ANY TERRAZZO SURFACE MUST BE TREATED WITH SEALANT BEFORE USE. – CORAL SACHS

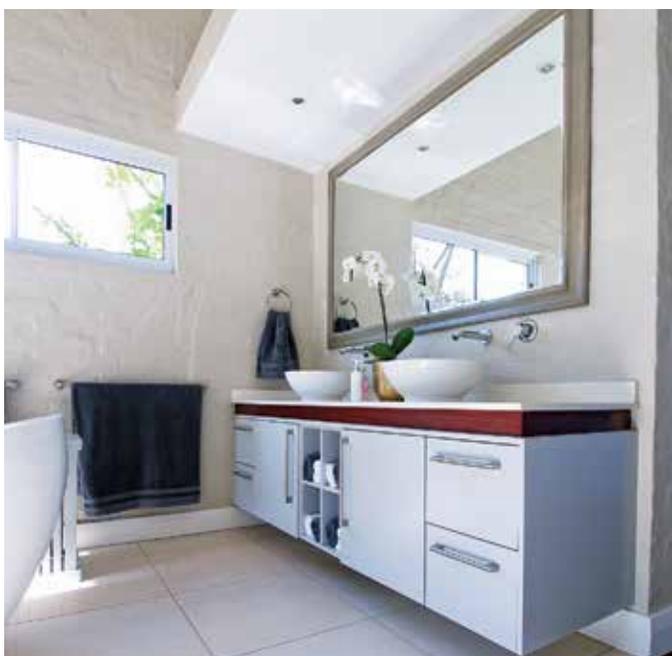


BORN AGAIN

This eclectic kitchen has a distinctive country feel. It features honed Rustenburg countertops with similar floor tiles. The two-tone shabby paint technique complements the homeliness of the solid, rustic American oak chairs and built-in table with its ultra-matte finish. This is a light, airy kitchen with plenty of storage shelves and drawers with comfortable seating and a stunning set of multiple pendant lights above the preparation area. It exemplifies simple country-style living at its best.

Call 0861 327 9543/0861 EASYLIFE or visit www.easylifekitchens.co.za for more information.

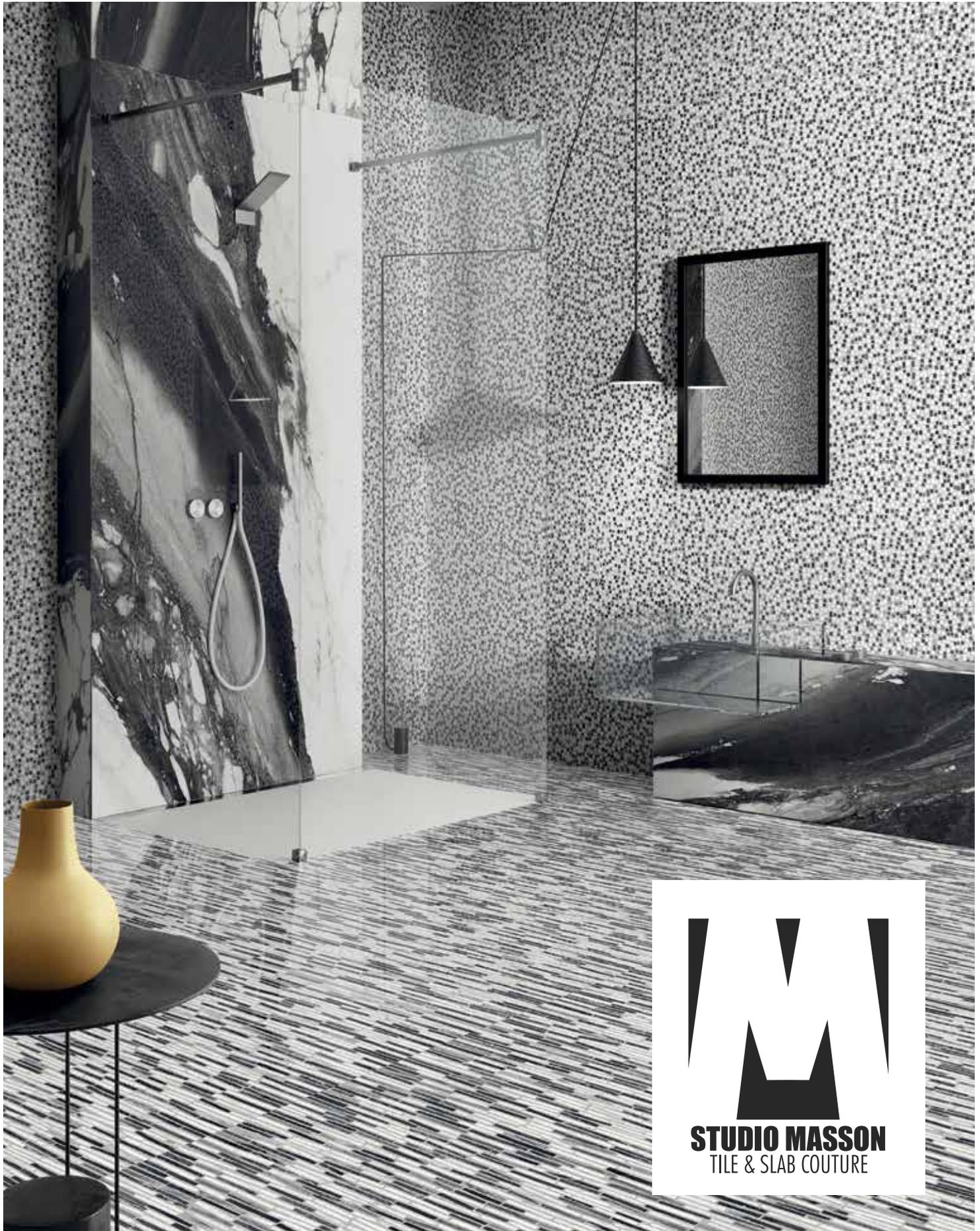




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THE FUTURE OF KITCHEN GADGETRY

SLEEK, SOPHISTICATED AND SOON TO BE INTERCONNECTED, THE SKY'S THE LIMIT AS FAR AS HOME KITCHEN APPLIANCES GO, WRITES **GUINEVERE DAVIES**

With the purpose of making everyone's lives in the kitchen just that much easier, appliances – both big and small – are nothing if not innovative. Especially when it comes to saving important resources like electricity, water, food, time and sanity.

THE HERE AND NOW

When it comes to must-have kitchen technology, appliances that allow for the quick and easy preparation of healthy, home-cooked meals reign supreme. As Lucy Jones, marketing director of Philips Africa, explains, "As technology advances – in every way and place, including in the kitchen – it's enabling us to take better control of our health."

Lisa Greenwood, Siemens communication manager for Home Appliances, South Africa, agrees. "The most exciting new innovations in the kitchen industry are always led by the cooking style and when compromising on your lifestyle is not an option, hot air steam is the solution."

Miele's Mercia de Jager adds, "Steam ovens are a huge trend – largely because they make preparing delicious, healthy meals really quick and easy. The way you prepare your meals can have a big impact on its calorific content, as well as its nutritional value. Steaming remains one of the easiest, cleanest, tastiest and healthiest all-purpose cooking methods."

Thanks to the inclusion of smart technology in everyday appliances like ovens and countertop cookers, home cooks don't have to worry about wasting ingredients and potentially ruining dinner as the appliances themselves are programmed to react responsively to the dish (or dishes) they're asked to cook.

Bosch's Ashveer Jaganath adds, "Although steam is becoming really important, induction cooking is a smarter way to cook and saves more energy.

"There's something to be said about standing in front of an induction cook top on a hot day and having no heat coming back at you. When we cook with induction we only have 5% heat loss. It also requires minimum ventilation which is great for South African home owners who have the advantage of space which allows an island to be incorporated into the kitchen."

LOOKING AHEAD

In the future, not only will most of your kitchen appliances literally take



Bosch



the hard work out of home cooking for you, but they'll be talking to you (and each other) too. Appliance interconnectivity or the internet of things (IoT) has already been adopted in other parts of the world, but South Africans will have to wait until next year or 2020 before the technology rolls out here.

"South African home owners are becoming more familiar with the 'smart home', and the connected kitchen is no different. We see this trend continuing to grow as the popularity of voice assist devices, such as Google Home and Amazon Echo, encourage more devices to be included as part of IoT ecosystems," says Philips Africa's Jones.

For Whirlpool, that means the eventual introduction of voice control, allowing users to literally tell their appliances what to do. Miele, meanwhile, hopes to enhance the capabilities of their already intuitive Dialog oven with the addition of the Miele@mobile app, incorporating thousands of recipes and cooking inspiration. LG's already innovative InstaView Door-in-Door fridge – which allows users to check the contents of the fridge without opening the door – will soon be telling you when to restock your staples and order produce for you.

"Any cooking enthusiast will tell you that gas remains the most efficient and responsive way to cook on a stove." – Michelle Morricks

"Life's pleasure often lies in the simplest things, which is why Siemens introduced Mykie at this year's EuroCucina show in Milan," says Greenwood. "Your personal kitchen and home assistant derives from the Home Connect App and responds to the user's voice by means of voice recognition. Mykie, which stands for 'my kitchen elf', is a friend that takes care of most of your domestic tasks and is always hands-on with his additional services such as recipe ideas, his ability to answer questions about the weather or the latest stock market prices."

FILLING IN THE GAPS

In the meantime, while we wait for the day when we can talk to the fridge without feeling silly, there are more than a few innovations to help make the wait more than bearable.

For Defy, it's the launch of the MultiZone fridge freezer, one that allows users to store food at individual temperatures within the compartments, cutting down on food wastage. This system also prevents the food from transferring odours. LG, meanwhile, hopes to revolutionise clothes washing with the introduction of the TWINWash washing machine, allowing users to wash and dry big and small loads simultaneously. Once enabled with Wi-Fi, it will also let users know exactly how much water and electricity they're using per load.

"Any cooking enthusiast will tell you that gas remains the most efficient and responsive way to cook on a stove," says Whirlpool's Michelle Morricks. For this reason, Whirlpool has launched the TWM951CGG2 FS GAS COOKER, equipped with five gas burners offering immediate, even and responsive heat.

Siemens has a seamless solution when it comes to keeping your open-plan home smoke- and odour-free with their iQ 700 downdraft extractor. "It's the ideal cooking companion for your open-plan kitchen. With the touch of a button your extractor fan will appear from the countertop to eliminate all smoke and odours while cooking," says Greenwood. ■

With thanks to Bosch, Defy, LG, Miele, Philips Africa, Siemens and Whirlpool

LITTLE HELPERS

OUR EXPERTS RECOMMEND ADDING THESE COUNTERTOP WONDERS TO YOUR KITCHEN REPERTOIRE

The Defy Power Blender is a stainless steel 1 000W high-speed blender, making it perfect for creating easy, healthy, on-the-go smoothies.



The Siemens EQ 9 s500 fully integrated automatic espresso or coffee machine promises to turn anyone into a master barista.

Their largest and most powerful airfryer yet, the Philips XXL Airfryer has the full size and power to handle a whole chicken or deliciously crisp fries for up to six portions in one go. The fat reducer captures the remaining oil at the bottom of the pan for easy disposal once you're done cooking.



Whirlpool's JetChef Microwave was created to save time and also help make life easier in the kitchen. Thanks to Whirlpool's 3D Crisp Technology, you can create perfectly crisp pizza in eight minutes, or bake a tray of muffins in 12.



The new Bosch AutoCook ensures that anyone can cook. It gives you quick and tasty results with a pressure-cooking function and steam pressure that uses powerful induction heating technology for perfect results, with 50 preset programmes to choose from.



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Who is the "new" Sembel-It?

In 2013 South Africa's largest independent kitchen manufacturer, The Kitchen Studio, acquired the Sembel-It brand. The Kitchen Studio is one of the country's most celebrated kitchen manufacturers, boasting an array of accolades and achievements in its 24 year history. As Sembel - It's new parent company, The Kitchen Studio has brought a wealth of industry know - how and leading edge design to Sembel-it and has ushered in an exciting and promising new era for the brand.

What was the purpose of The Kitchen Studio acquiring Sembel -It?

Both The Kitchen Studio and Sembel-It have always had a strong presence in their respective markets. Whilst The Kitchen Studio concentrated on the higher end and became well known for its high quality fittings, a wide range of finishes, "no chipboard kitchens" and innovative design, Sembel-it, who was Africa's largest kitchen manufacturer, concentrated on Africa, developments and the middle market. They were the first company in the country to introduce PVC wrap doors and also established themselves through a European modular system of component manufacturing. This simply meant that they pre-manufactured most of their kitchen and bedroom components which allowed them to offer the highest quality products at the lowest possible price with the shortest turnaround time. With a large existing infrastructure already in place and a short supply of high quality, reliable mid ranged kitchen suppliers, it seemed like an ideal opportunity for The Kitchen Studio to use Sembel-It as its vehicle to fill this gap in the market. Sembel-It will also benefit from its parent company's bulk purchasing power, direct imports of Hettich & Blum hinges and drawer runners, Niemann & Losan acrylic, Blanco sinks, Sige chrome accessories, Falmec and Elica extractors and a variety of other components essential to the manufacture of its high quality products.

What is the difference between The Kitchen Studio and Sembel-It?

The Kitchen Studio will continue to offer the widest range of "no chipboard" purpose made kitchens and bedrooms in any finish, shape or size imaginable. Sembel-It will concentrate on manufacturing and installing a range of the most popular finishes and sizes at the best possible prices.

With so many kitchen suppliers around what makes Sembel-It better/ different?

With Sembel-It benefiting from an established infrastructure and very little factory overhead costs, it is in a position to offer unbeatable value on their kitchens and bedrooms. While much of the kitchen industry are essentially carcass manufacturers with a small range of in-house door offerings, Sembel-It has ready access to a wide range of top quality finishes without having to buy out their doors. Granite, Marble and Quartz which are supplied in - house by The Granite Studio.

For more information on our products, please visit our spectacular showroom where you can chat to one of our experienced kitchen design consultants or call us on 011 465 2835. Alternatively you can email your plans or kitchen dimensions to info@sembel-it.co.za and we will get back to you with an estimate.

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GET YOUR TILES ON

TILE CHOICE HAS NEVER BEEN MORE INSPIRED, SO GET CREATIVE, WRITES **HELEN GRANGE**

Vanity Collage



Bathroom Bizarre

Renovating your bathroom can be one of the most expensive projects in your home, so you want to get it right. Your choice of tile is critical, so take some time selecting from the huge range of tiles on the market.

Firstly, decide on whether you want to go dark or light, bearing in mind that white, off-white or light colours make the room feel spacious, while dark shades add sophistication and drama. Diagonal patterns also make a smaller bathroom look bigger, and are right on-trend.

HEXAGONAL TILES

Hexagonal and geometric shapes – popular in the 1920s and 1940s – are trending strongly right now.

“Hexagonal tiles give you an interesting organic honeycomb shape. The difference with modern hexagonal tiles is that they are now available in a variety of colours, textures and materials, to suit any décor style, from contemporary to traditional,” says Johnny Lamprecht from Bathroom Bizarre.

You can also create great designs with plain hexagonal tiles, from geometric floral patterns to a shaded effect, working from light to dark. Add pattern to the equation and you can really up the stakes.

“There are a wide variety of hexagonal tiles in incredibly visually interesting geometric designs and colours. You can use patterned hexagonal tiles to create a central ‘rug’ pattern, for instance, or vice versa – a patterned border with a plain inner ‘rug’ effect,” Lamprecht says.

The designs are not just limited to interesting colours and shapes – hexagonal tiles are also being manufactured with realistic wood or natural stone finishes.

MOSAIC TILES

Mosaic tiles also come in a variety of shapes, colours, textures and designs, so your choice has never been more personalised or more expressive.

“Calmer colours are used in the bathrooms, and mosaics are added as accents



to draw attention to an area. It may be the shower walls and floor, or a customised pattern which covers an entire wall in the bathroom," says Kitty Douglas Jones, marketing director for Douglas Jones.

The fashion-conscious will be drawn to the Moroccan-inspired patterns, or take a look at the new range of miniature mosaics in the form of bevelled subway tiles, at Italtile, which are best used as a splashback or for the shower cubicle.

"An interesting way to use mosaic tiles is to insert them in a random way," suggests Liza

Watermeyer at Tile Africa. "So you might create a bespoke feature using just a few sheets of the mosaic tile."

If you prefer a soft, tranquil result, wood-look mosaics are ideal if they're similar in colour to the main tile you select for your space, Watermeyer adds. "Alternatively, contrasting mosaics with other finishes or tiles will add a dash of eclectic style and loads of interest in an area."



ECO-LOOK TILES

Wood-, marble- and stone-look tiles suit more eco-conscious tastes.

"The new trend is the polished marble look in large-format, porcelain tiles. The reflection in itself further adds to the illusion of space and elegance," says Jeanine Philpott from Vanity Collage.

The range of marble-look tiles is vast – Italtile has over 50 types of marble tile and mosaic – and they also come in the super new size of 1 200 x 1 200mm.

Wood-look tiles, meanwhile, infuse warmth in your bathroom, and they also come in long and slender plank-type tiles of 150 x 1200mm, to further add to the true timber flooring look.

"In open-plan bathrooms especially, wood-look tiles really provide that warmth that an open-space bedroom and bathroom need," says Danielle Sterling from Sterlings.

For a stunning take on stone-look tiles, meanwhile, take a look at the Havana collection at Tile Collage, harking back to '50s Cuba. 🏠

With thanks to Bathroom Bizarre, Douglas Jones, Italtile, Sterlings, Tile Africa, Tile Collage and Vanity Collage

TIPS

- 1** ARABESQUE, SLIM RECTANGLES, RHOMBUS, TRIANGULAR AND HEXAGONAL ARE THE TRENDING SHAPE AND CUT FOR BATHROOM TILES.
- 2** MIXING AND MATCHING DIFFERENT TILES IN DIFFERENT SHAPES CREATES A MOROCCAN-INFUSED ATMOSPHERE.
- 3** FOR A CHIC, SOPHISTICATED LOOK, MARBLE TILES ARE BEST PAIRED WITH GLASS AND STONE.

Douglas Jones

"The new trend is the polished marble look in large-format, porcelain tiles."
– Jeanine Philpott

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The new Jeeves Spartan Nine heated towel rail offers striking design along with impressive towel-drying heating efficiency.

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Creating interest around the basin itself with this loom design by Disegno Ceramica, available from Sterlings.



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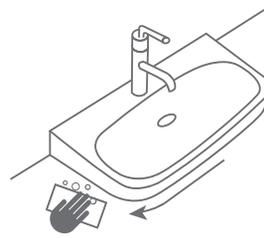
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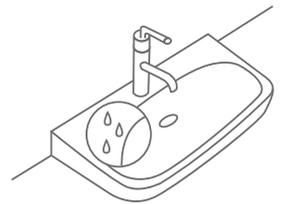


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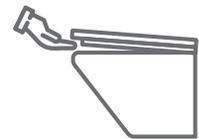
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SOAK IT IN

HASMITA AMTHA EXPLORES THE LATEST
TRENDS IN BATHS AND SHOWERS

Regardless of how much time you spend in your bathroom, it's handy to know the latest trends to ensure your bathroom experience is a good one. If you're installing a shower or a new bath, consider these top three trends before you head out...

BE WATER-WISE

South Africa is a water-scarce country, and many regions have been forced to limit their water usage at home. The bathroom is one of the first places where home owners are cutting down. With this in mind, there's been a rise in the availability of water-efficient products.

When it comes to showers, the showerhead is what you need to look at. John Westermeyer of LIXIL Africa (Cobra, GROHE and Libra) suggests: "If home owners are revamping their bathrooms, it is essential to install a showerhead with a pressure-compensating flow restrictor. The ideal flow





Sterlings



rate is 8.5 to 9 litres per minute. All of Cobra's multi-function shower heads include water-saving flow restrictors."

Ronelle Badenhorst of Kohler Sub-Saharan Africa says: "As South Africans we have to be aware of water conservation so anything that facilitates this should be adopted. This isn't so much of a trend as it is an essential adjustment of behaviour to preserve a limited resource for now and the future."

"Showers are the most obvious area of focus for this and measures can easily be adopted just by changing your shower fitting."

However, often there is water wastage, as showerheads can drip. In response, Kohler has developed anti-drip technology that reduces water wastage in showerheads. As Badenhorst points out, "The self-levelling ball joint reduces water dripping from the showerhead by up to 80% when closed. The increased number of nozzles also means a better showering experience."

While you may think that you can only shave down your water usage by showering, baths too are being designed to hold less water, and with smart plumbing you can easily redirect the grey water for other purposes.

Bokgabo Tlhaku of DADO Creations advises: "Re-using the water is key with bathing sustainably. Baths allow easier conversion for the repurposing of grey water because the water is already contained. Especially when considering DIY solutions."

Victoria + Albert have baths that are smaller in size, therefore using less water, "and that are also made from materials with good thermal qualities, ensuring there's no need to top up with additional hot water", adds Maryka Holliday of Victoria + Albert Baths.

THE COLOUR CODE

We're in an exciting era of design, with many options available to us. Tlhaku of DADO Creations points out: "Traditional all-white bathrooms with stainless steel accessories are quickly making their exit as the trends towards brass and darker metals rise in designers' selection of faucets and mixers. These trendy colour alternatives add dimension and depth to the room while simply being a better match for certain tones than the shiny stainless steel we have come to expect."

Westermeyer of LIXIL Africa agrees: "Colour is being used a lot on mixers and showerheads such as GROHE's Essence Spa colour range, which is available in either an elegantly brushed or highly polished finish. They are as beautiful as they sound and work perfectly in high- and middle-contrast environments as well as in tone-on-tone designs. Inspired by the latest global trends, they are carefully designed to fit into every bathroom style and colour environment." >

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This Love Milo storage basket is just the stylish item you need to keep your clothes in. www.lovemilo.com



This bold yet quirky Decker Shower Caddy by Umbra combines the beauty of bamboo and modern metal. www.yuppiechef.com

Keep all your bits and bobs from bath salts to cotton pads in these beautifully crafted marble canisters from Linen House. www.linenhouse.co.za





From white to black, Greg Bloem of MacNeil has seen the local market get excited about their black range of products: "Our new shower doors in black are becoming increasingly popular. These have been trending in Europe for a while and are now available in SA." Complementing their shower doors, MacNeil also has matte black shower roses, shower arms and wastes for basins and baths. Bloem adds: "When it comes to baths, we have found that our Bijiou freestanding baths are extremely popular and once again in our black series, which leads to the freestanding mixers."

COMPACT FIT

The international trend towards smaller bathrooms is a contrast to the open-plan larger bathrooms we have all come to love. Badenhorst of Kohler elaborates: "There has been an interesting shift towards more compact bathrooms, probably informed by baths being replaced by showers and wet rooms. These smaller bathrooms allow for more luxurious sanitaryware and finishes including floor-to-ceiling tiles that create the illusion of a larger space."

Wet rooms, according to Badenhorst, provide home owners with the luxury of a spa-like experience at home. "Especially with innovations in showerhead technology, which allow for an array of shower options ranging from massage therapy and rinsing to experiential sprays, or even a combination of sprays, depending on what is required."

And as Thaku of DADO Creations reminds us: "At the end of the day, a bathroom is not just a bathing facility but a sanctuary and (for many of us) the only room where we have alone time to relax, be ourselves, meditate, reflect on the day past or prepare for the one ahead."

Keep this in mind when revamping your bathroom, whether a wet room works for you and your family, or a bath is best...🏠

With thanks to DADO Creations, Kohler Sub-Saharan Africa, LIXIL Africa, MacNeil, Sterlings, Victoria + Albert Baths and Victorian Bathrooms

TIPS FROM THE EXPERTS

- 1 "Quality above all! From the plumbing to the taps, baths and basins ... all should be the best you can afford." – **Maryka Holliday, Victoria + Albert**
- 2 "Water-saving features are key in the current South African context, as you can still have maximum enjoyment with minimum consumption." – **John Westermeyer, LIXIL Africa**
- 3 "Besides the aesthetic considerations, the design must be practical for the user or users. Are you looking for a retreat because you have a stressful job or are you looking for a space to bath your kids? Or both? The design must be informed by how you intend to use the space." – **Ronelle Badenhorst, Kohler Sub-Saharan Africa**
- 4 "The type of bath that you purchase can also make a big difference as the type of acrylic material plays a big role in retaining heat in the actual tube, which in turn means a longer bath at a higher temperature, which in turn again saves water." – **Greg Bloem, MacNeil**

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CARVING COLOUR INTO YOUR BATHROOM



Douglas Jones

COLOURFUL SANITARYWARE AND MIXED METALLICS ARE KEY TO DEFINING THE MODERN BATHROOM, WRITES HELEN GRANGE

Introducing colour or mixing metals in your bathroom might seem counterintuitive, but actually, it is part of a larger trend toward more organic, less defined spaces.

"We are rediscovering the power of colour in the bathroom. It can be pivotal in enhancing the experience and evoking emotions," says Ronelle Badenhorst, commercial director for Kohler Africa.

Exemplifying this trend is black sanitaryware, including baths and basins as well as taps and mixers, which are also adopting striking contours that defy tradition.

BLACK AND ROSE GOLD

Black sanitaryware evokes a feel of exclusive luxury and elegance. You can select black accessories – taps, robe hooks, a heated towel rail (HTR) – or make it a focal colour with a black toilet and black bath, like Italtile's beautiful Victoria + Albert matte black bath, the Terrassa, which is white on the inside and black on the outside.

Rose gold, meanwhile, symbolises romance and luxury, and you'll see it in abundance in taps, showerheads, HTRs and other bathroom accessories at all the top-end bathroom retailers.

"People are always looking at ways to make stylish design and décor statements and this should be as prevalent in a bathroom as anywhere else in the home. This is why we've designed a series of rose gold bathroom accessories," says Andrew Taylor, CEO of Bathroom Butler.

COLOURFUL CENTREPIECE

The washbasin can be the show-stopping centrepiece in your bathroom. "The latest fashion for basins is that they are a lot bigger and more of a statement piece in the bathroom, as many homes are no longer putting in baths," says Danielle Sterling from Sterlings.

Take a look at the colourful Artist Editions washbasins by Kohler Africa, for example – washbasins inspired by the craftsmanship of a small pottery studio. Each basin is a one-of-a-kind creation, finished with unique artisanal glazes.

In your guest bathroom especially, you might think of introducing colour this way. "As it's not a space you use often, you can let your creativity run free," says Monika Krolewicz, interior designer at Ferreiras.

MIXING METALS

Metallic colours continue to surprise in sanitaryware. "We are seeing metallic colours in basins, which usually have matching baths," says Abdul Patel from Lifestyle Ceramics.

"Metallic colour is also being used a lot on taps and mixers and showerheads, such as the Grohe Essence Spa colours range. There is a tremendous variety with 10 possible combinations of colours and finishes, inspired by the latest



Sterlings

global trends. They work perfectly in high- and middle-contrast environments as well as in tone-on-tone designs," says Michelle Lowe from Grohe Dawn.

In mixing up metals, the rule of thumb is to choose a metal you love to be the most prominent, then select one or two metal accents to complete the look, mixing warm and cool tones.

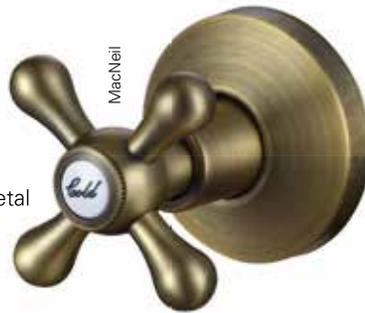
"You can also introduce metal subtly, like in a vanity with a metal frame or storage unit," adds Reuben Zasas from EuroTrend.

WATER-SAVING TOILETS AND TAPS

Most modern toilets, whether they have exposed or built-in cisterns, come with a dual-flush mechanism. For a single flush, four litres are used for liquid waste, and for a double flush, six litres are used to flush away solid waste. "This mechanism saves a tremendous amount of water," says Jasmin Kraneveldt from Bathroom Bizarre.

The toilets with the lowest flush capacity on the market – reducing water by up to 60% – are to be found at Yourspace Bathrooms. "There are lots of models in our ranges, from entry-level pricing to the more designer styles, so all budgets are covered," says Gill Lomas, director at Yourspace Bathrooms.

Most shower roses are also manufactured with eco-credentials top of mind, so flow rates start from as little as nine litres per minute. If you don't want to buy new, you can get water-saving widgets/aerators that can be added to basin mixers, sink mixers and showers, like those retailed by MacNeil. 🏠



POPPING COLOUR

INTRODUCE PERSONALITY TO YOUR BATHROOM



Kohler wall-mounted taps with cross handles



Sky blue sanitaryware, from Sterlings



Mixing metals in taps, from Sterlings

TIPS

WARM METALS ARE GOLD, BRASS AND NICKEL, AND READ AS A RICH POP OF COLOUR WHEN PLACED WITH COOL METALS LIKE SILVER AND CHROME.

AVOID JUGGLING TOO MANY METALS. CHOOSE A COOL BASE AND ACCENT WITH WARM METALS.

WATER-SAVING FAUCETS, SHOWER ROSES AND TOILET CISTERNS ARE NOT ONLY A GREENER CHOICE, THEY WILL SAVE ON YOUR WATER BILL.

MIX AND MATCH VARIOUS TONES AND TEXTURES TO CREATE AN INVITING BATHROOM SPACE.



Kohler Africa

With thanks to Bathroom Bizarre, Bathroom Butler, Douglas Jones, EuroTrend, Ferreiras, Grohe Dawn, Italtile, Kohler Africa, Lifestyle Ceramics, MacNeil, Sterlings, Yourspace Bathrooms and Woolworths

"We are seeing metallic colours in basins, which usually have matching baths."

- Abdul Patel



Grohe Dawn

MOMENTS OF ITALIAN DESIGN

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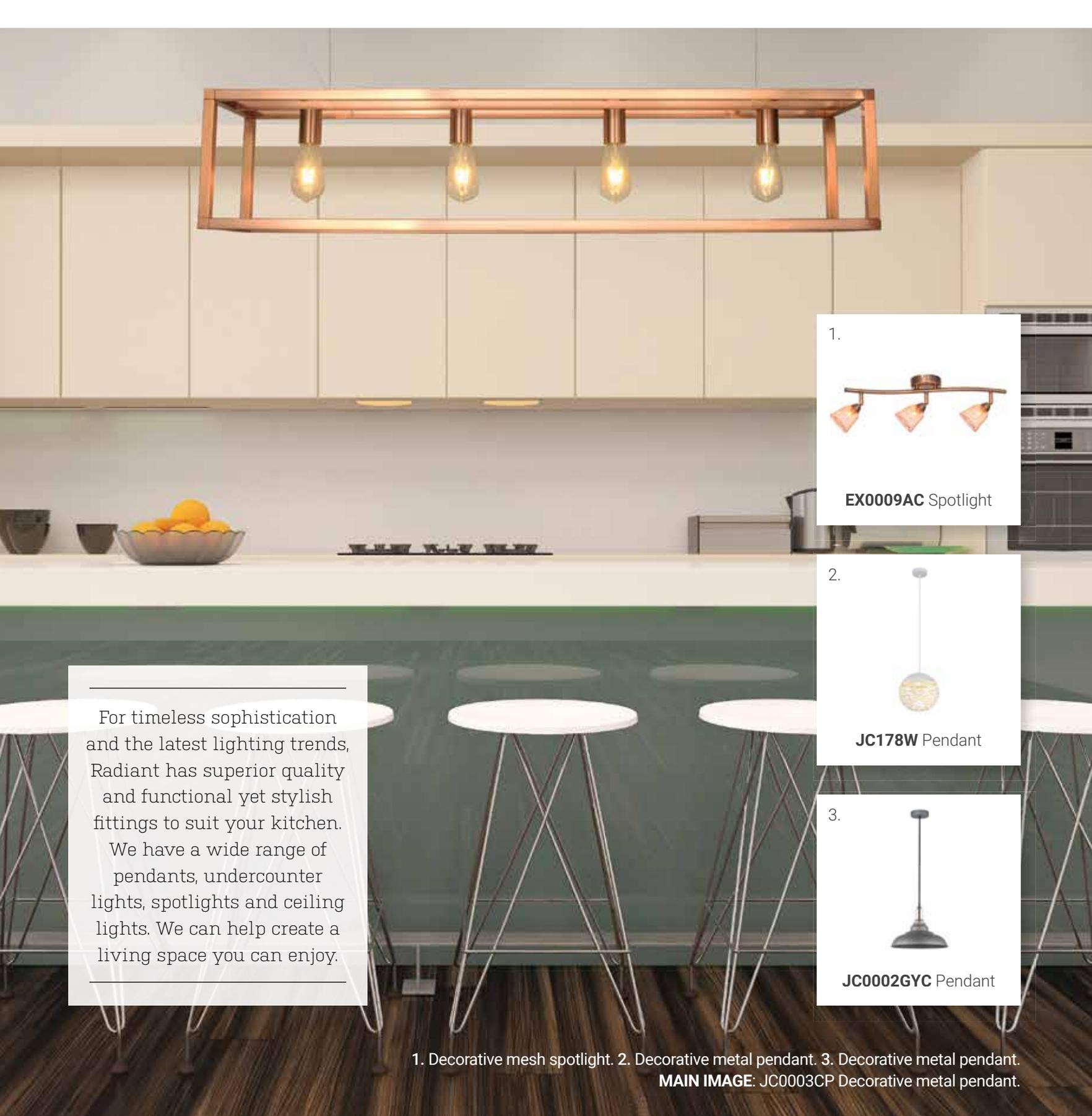
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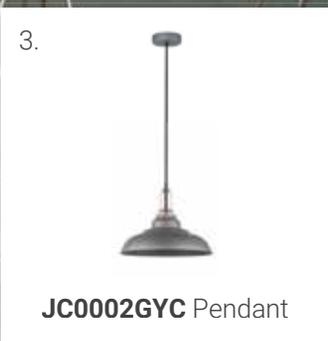
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