



THEME
TOUCH AND FEEL

COOL CONTRASTS

Ramón Casadó of Bulthaup Kitchens has used a monochrome palette for this Stellenbosch kitchen, yet his choice of textures and mix of finishes add warmth. Structure Oak (black grey) was used for cupboard fronts and the breakfast-bar worktop, while Laminate (alpine white) was used for cupboard fronts and the sink worktop. Contrasting timber accents come through in the floor (walnut) by Bestwood Flooring and the grained white oak bar stools and chairs by Carl Hansen & Søn. The elegant dining table by Gregor Jenkin, designer lighting and a cupboard featuring the owner's art complete the look, with interior design by Lanie van Reenen Interiors.



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- Colin Lee, Bulthaup



STEEL GOOD
Stainless-steel worktops in the scullery are offset by glossy white-glass wall panels - a practical yet stylish solution. Ramón chose Gaggenau's streamlined appliances for the entire kitchen, including the extractor and hobs (Teppan Yaki, induction and gas), further accentuating the sleek kitchen. bulthaup.com

TALKING TRENDS

We grill Colin Lee of kitchen design company Bulthaup on what's cooking on the design scene:

'The general trend is towards open-plan living, with the kitchen taking its rightful place at the heart of every home. Kitchen spaces need to flow seamlessly into the living spaces without an obvious change in appearance from one area to the next. A blending of the fabrics of kitchen and living areas means that cooking areas no longer scream, "Kitchen!" in such obvious ways. This, plus

a similar integration of appliances, has meant that the home is no longer seen as a series of rooms but rather one seamless living space.

I am most excited by the use of new materials in kitchens. Touch is such an important factor in determining your experience with regards to any design, and kitchens are creative spaces that are all about touch and feel. These days, we're more adventurous about mixing old and new aesthetics and are less afraid of juxtaposing different finishes, be they aluminium, stone, laminate or wood.

Key to good kitchen design is the integration of aesthetics and functionality. Our internal drawer

system, for instance, reinvents basic functionality, while our new e-touch technology for fridges allows for a handle-free facade. On the appliance front, it's the same. Guaranteed, it's only a matter of time before we have an all-in-one steam oven, fan oven and microwave.

In South Africa, lifestyles are centred around family and friends. A lot of entertaining is done at home, around a kitchen area that flows into a bar, dining or living room and ultimately outside. With their larger open areas, South African homes give Bulthaup products space to breathe, while in Europe, living space is often a limiting factor.'

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