

PRESS RELEASE

10 kitchen appliance trends for 2016

Liam Gawne from leading kitchen appliance manufacturer, Miele, offers some insight into the leading kitchen appliance trends for 2016.

14 December 2015, Johannesburg: Kitchen trends may come and go, but one thing remains constant: the kitchen is the heart of the home. Whether it is being used to prepare gourmet meals, or as a gathering place for friends and family – Liam Gawne from leading appliance manufacturer, Miele, explains that the three C's will define the kitchen for 2016: colour, customisation and convenience.

"Appliances are first and foremost a practical element in kitchens that make your life easier, but today, with the introduction of technology and high design, they are also becoming key design features in any kitchen worth its salt." Here is his breakdown of the top 10 trends influencing kitchen appliances going forward:

1.) Integration

Perhaps one of the mainstay trends in modern kitchen design is the open-plan layout – where the kitchen merges with the living space. Says Liam: "All family life revolves around food and as such, the kitchen has become the most social area of the home. Open-plan layouts allow this room to become an integral part of the home's living space – allowing the cook to socialise with others while preparing meals. Here, the kitchen, dining area and lounge all form one carefully designed open-plan space – maximising the floor space and the multi-purpose functionality of the kitchen area."

He notes that as a result of the popularity of this kind of design, it is important that the appliances add to the aesthetics of the area, as well as being functional. Miele has catered for this trend with its Generation 6000 range of high-end built-in kitchen appliances. Liam explains: "At Miele, we believe that design encompasses the outward appearance of an object, as well as the experience of using it. This is the principle on which all of our built-in kitchen appliances are based. It results in products that perfectly complement one another within each family in terms of form, function and materials. Our Generation 6000 range of appliances takes design consistency to a completely new level for a truly seamless and integrated end result."

2.) Colour

Gone are the days of plain and dull kitchens – as kitchens cement their role as a home's central gathering place, Liam notes that they're taking on increasingly more vibrant colours: "The kitchen is a key place for colour – it's the place where people gather, so it's apt to have some mixing and matching of colours to create a high energy impact." Miele offers lovers of fine kitchens a range of four colour options – Obsidian Black, Havana Brown, Brilliant White and CleanSteel Stainless Steel. Miele has also introduced colour-coded cookerhoods to its range, explains

Liam: “Customers can choose from an exceptionally wide range of colours from the RAL colour guide, to ensure that their cookerhoods adds to the overall colour scheme of their home.

3.) Design

In terms of kitchen styles, transitional design that sits somewhere between traditional and contemporary, continues to gain popularity. Says Liam: “Although most modern kitchens are inspired with transitional elements, they tend to err more on the side of modernity as compared to traditional. Miele’s Generation 6000 range of appliances boasts the PureLine design, which harmonises perfectly with transitional styling with its puristic and linear design. The key features here are the use of a variety of materials and surface finishes that leave a harmonious overall impression.”

4.) Technology

Today, increasingly more homeowners are looking for appliances that test the limits of innovation – appliances that not only boast streamlined, design-conscious aesthetics and solid functionality, but that also offer cutting-edge technology that will go that extra mile to help produce only the best end results possible in the simplest and most time-efficient manner possible.

One such example is Miele’s MTouch technology, which allows you to operate your Miele Generation 6000 appliances in the same way that you operate your smartphone. A double cappuccino at the touch of a single button, finding the desired automatic programme on a steam cooker in an instant, or selecting the operating mode and temperature in just a few simple steps before baking – this can all be done extremely elegantly and more simply than ever before with Miele’s new M Touch controls.

Says Liam: “M Touch stands for a high-resolution TFT (thin-film transistor) display, and it is reminiscent of smart phones and tablet PCs. The menu is browsed by swiping or scrolling with the tip of a finger. Functions and menu options appear in brilliantly clear white letters on a black background. Colour elements are favoured for the display in the interests of improved clarity and a low-key approach – ‘OK’ to confirm a function is highlighted in green and the ‘Stop’ button is red.”

5.) Going green

The environmentally friendly kitchen begins with eating green, but it certainly doesn’t end there. Energy- and water-efficient appliances are not only good for the pocket, but they are also a good choice for the planet too. Says Liam Gawne from leading appliance manufacturer, Miele: “It has been estimated that appliances can use up to 20% of your total electricity bill – so changing to energy-efficient appliances can save you quite a substantial amount over the long term.”

As such, energy efficient appliances are a must-have for any modern kitchen – however, Liam advises that you should look at both the energy rating of the appliance, and also consider its overall carbon footprint: “A truly green appliance is not just about its energy efficiency ratings – you also need to consider the sustainable practices of the manufacturer, as well as the overall carbon footprint of the appliance in question. For example, all of Miele’s appliances are designed, manufactured and tested to last for a minimum of 20 years, which not only means you get more bang for your buck, but it also seriously reduces its overall carbon footprint.”

6.) Wellbeing

As modern lifestyles create new health challenges, maintaining or improving health and wellness has become a well-established priority in many people’s lives. Says Liam: “Being proactive in keeping yourself as healthy as possible not only has the benefit of ensuring that you look your best, but it also negates the need for costly medical treatment and time-out from the workplace. As a result, improving your basic nutrition has become a major objective for many.” As such, Liam explains that healthy cooking methods such as steaming, have really grown in popularity: “Steam ovens represent a mega-trend in the kitchen, incorporating the principles of healthy, wholesome cooking like no other appliance.”

7.) Size

Even though on average, modern homes might be getting smaller, there has been a resurgence in popularity for large-format appliances that do more. Liam explains: “Appliances are seen by most as a long-term investment and as such, more and more consumers are opting for larger appliances that offer a bigger capacity. This is largely due to the fact that large format appliances can do more, store more, and clean more in the same amount of time. Take Miele’s DGC 6660 XXL combination steam oven for example – it offers an interior with a huge 68-litre capacity. This allows the use of up to four rack levels, considerably extending the range of applications when compared other models on the market.”

8.) Coffee

Being able to brew a delicious cup of coffee in the comfort of your own home is a huge trend at the moment, says Liam: “Increasingly more homeowners are choosing to save on store-bought designer coffees in lieu of being able to make them at home instead. Today, coffee aficionados are not prepared to settle on inferior quality coffee at any time of the day – they want to enjoy the luxury of sipping a good quality brew while they are relaxing at home too.”

Miele’s Generation 6000 range of built-in coffee makers for example, allows you to prepare two coffee specialties simultaneously, such as cappuccino and latte macchiato for example. They also boast a range of other innovative and convenient features, including the CupSensor, which ensures the optimum distance between the spout and the cup or glass, the EasyClick milk system,

which makes it even easier for connoisseurs to prepare coffee specialties with milk, and convenient automatic cleaning programmes.”

9.) Convenience

When it comes to kitchen appliances, functionality continues to reign supreme. Says Liam: “Regarding appliances, design should never be an end in itself – it should always occur in symbiosis with maximum functionality. In terms of Miele’s Generation 6000 range of kitchen appliances for example, this means a host of added features that ensure optimum performance and user-friendliness.”

Added functions such as ovens with pyrolytic cleaning for example, offer users an effortless way of removing grease splashes and residue in the cabinet by incinerating them to ash at a very high temperatures. Miele’s Con@ctivity technology featured in its cookerhoods is another great example – it adjusts suction power automatically in relation to what is happening on the hob below, guaranteeing a pleasant room micro-climate.

10.) Countertop appliances

You no longer have to settle on mediocre appliances just because you don’t own your home – now you can invest in premium countertop appliances that you can take with you whenever you move. Liam adds: “Countertop models not only boast the large majority of innovations, technology and functionality of the built-in models, but they are also more affordable, and they are transportable. Countertop units, such as Miele’s countertop coffee machine, steam oven, and microwave for example are becoming increasingly popular options for those who rent, or alternatively, for homeowners who do not want to renovate their kitchen in order to benefit from new high-end built-in appliances.”

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