



SMALL but savvy

City living calls for compact kitchens – from smart design to integrated appliances, writes **Hasmita Amtha**

European cities are known and admired for apartment living. However, having easy access to the city centre comes at a cost, and that's the luxury of space. Similarly, new apartments in our metros are being designed to be compact, focusing on providing a lock-up-and-go lifestyle for long-term and short-term city dwellers. >

Miele

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 – Anthea Adam, Diva Cucine Johannesburg

Open-plan layouts have made modern apartment design comfortable to live in, but often the kitchen is kept quite simple to meet the resident’s basic food prep needs.

Here we take a look at this growing trend of luxury compact kitchens focusing on trends, key design considerations and smart appliances.

THE FUTURE IS NOW

According to Anthea Adam of Diva Cucine Johannesburg, home to the Italian brand Colombini Casa, there has been a global movement of home owners opting for smaller and more compact living solutions. The brand’s response to this need is the ATOM, a smart living system that’s also referred to as the ATOM Micro Living Solution.

“With the ATOM, solutions have been designed to make spaces flexible and adaptable to needs. These are spaces that by day are used as kitchen/dining and living rooms and at night are able to transform and become a real resting room/bedroom.



EuroCasa



EuroCasa



Miele

“The ATOM system is intended to provide a series of special articles designed to make the most of the space available, in a bedsit or other living area, by multiplying the perception of this space and creating different settings through simple movements. The elements shown here are intended to provide natural solutions to fulfil home living requirements, respecting its rhythms and specific time frames, without compromising on the size of the space.”

DESIGN DETAILS

For a compact kitchen, keeping things simple is key to ensuring efficiency while maintaining its aesthetics. EuroCasa’s Melanie Stein advocates for a streamlined design, and notes clever space-saving solutions are the way to go: think tuck-away breakfast tops, hidden extendable work surfaces and plenty of integrated storage.

To keep a sleek look, Stein suggests: “Avoid visual clutter by eliminating handles; this makes the look less complicated. Use every nook and cranny – there are amazing interior accessories to help with streamlining your storage space, including pot and pan organisers, spice systems, dishracks and corner pullout carousels.” >

TOP TIP

Built-under refrigerators or wine coolers can be installed under a worktop and are especially useful in small kitchens for extra refrigeration storage. – Jon Molyneaux, Miele South Africa

“The seamlessness of integrated and built-in appliances adds a touch of class to any contemporary compact kitchen.”
 – Sally van der Berg, Hirsch’s



Miele

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Miele

Combination appliances are an especially useful solution for compact kitchens, says Jon Molyneaux of Miele South Africa. Consider combination steam-microwave ovens, combination convection-steam ovens, washer-dryer units, fridge-freezers, and Miele's TwoInOne hob (a combination of an induction hob with a built-in downdraught extractor).

Integrated appliances are ideal for compact kitchens. "They blend seamlessly with the surrounding cabinetry. They offer a streamlined aesthetic and create the illusion of extra space," says Molyneaux.

Miele's Generation 7000 appliances have taken this to the next level. Whether their integrated appliances are installed one above the other or arranged horizontally in a cubic or T-shaped array, all Miele appliance combinations appear to come from the same mould. 🏠

With thanks to Diva Cucine Johannesburg, EuroCasa, Hirsch's and Miele South Africa



Hirsch's

"If home owners are going the non-traditional route of not having an oven and hob, the airfryer is a great choice." – Janice Lund, Hirsch's



Diva Cucine Johannesburg

APT APPLIANCES

Kitting out a small kitchen comes with great challenges, one of which is the appliance selection. Here you need to consider your lifestyle first, the space (including the countertop) and how you prepare your meals before going out to buy the full set.

For small appliances, Janice Lund of Hirsch's says that if home owners are going the non-traditional route of not having an oven and hob, the airfryer is a great choice. "The DNA Airfryer Oven paired with the SnappyChef two-plate induction stove is all you need. For coffee lovers, the Nespresso Essenza Mini is an absolute win and can be proudly displayed anywhere in the kitchen space."

For the major and essential appliances, Sally van der Berg of Hirsch's points out that the seamlessness of integrated and built-in appliances adds a touch of class to any contemporary compact kitchen. "Brands to look out for are Bosch, Siemens, Whirlpool and Miele. Naturally, space is a priority, but with the right designer on board, your kitchen can be transformed and redefined."

THE COLOUR CODE

Minimalist and neutral colour palettes are great for compact kitchens. Use light colours to lift the room and to create the illusion of more space. – **Melanie Stein, EuroCasa**



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