

# Magnificently MODERN

**Trisha Harinath** explains how you can create the ultimate contemporary kitchen



Glass, leather and plants uplift the textural quality of this kitchen, EuroCasa Africa.

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TOP TIP

"Opt for cabinetry with no handles and a sleek, clean look for the rest of the kitchen. This sets a good neutral base to add personality that will then relate to a specific taste or tone of a space." – **Lindy Goodbrand, EuroCasa Africa**





The island in this blu\_line kitchen is ideal for a modern look. To see more, scan the QR code.



An essential in a modern kitchen is movable plug points, Casarredo.

## A FOCUS ON LIGHTING

"Incorporate innovative lighting – balance ambient, task and accent lighting and create a focal piece in the kitchen using pendant lighting." – **Kayley Brazer, Casarredo**

The kitchen of today has come a long way – once a closed off space that functioned independently, today, it forms an essential part of open-plan living areas as it feeds into the dining room, a home bar and even the lounge. For this reason, home owners are opting for a culinary space that functions well and looks high-end, too. From sleek lines, clean spaces, modern takes on tried and tested

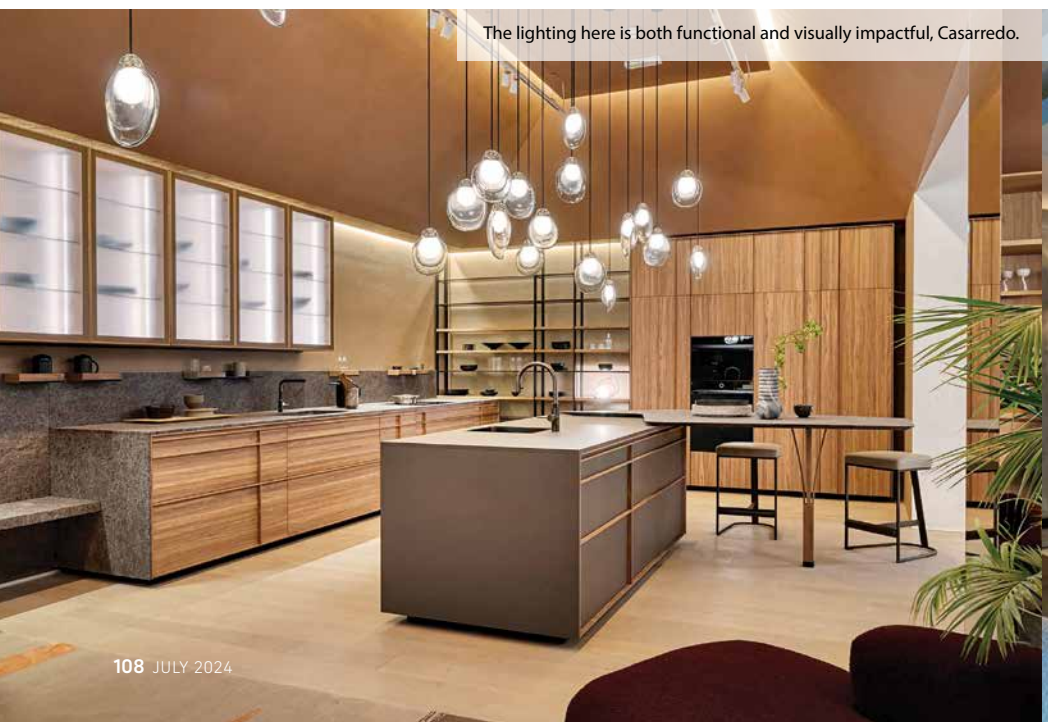
materials and top-notch appliances, our experts share how you can achieve the ideal contemporary kitchen.

## WHAT IS A CONTEMPORARY KITCHEN

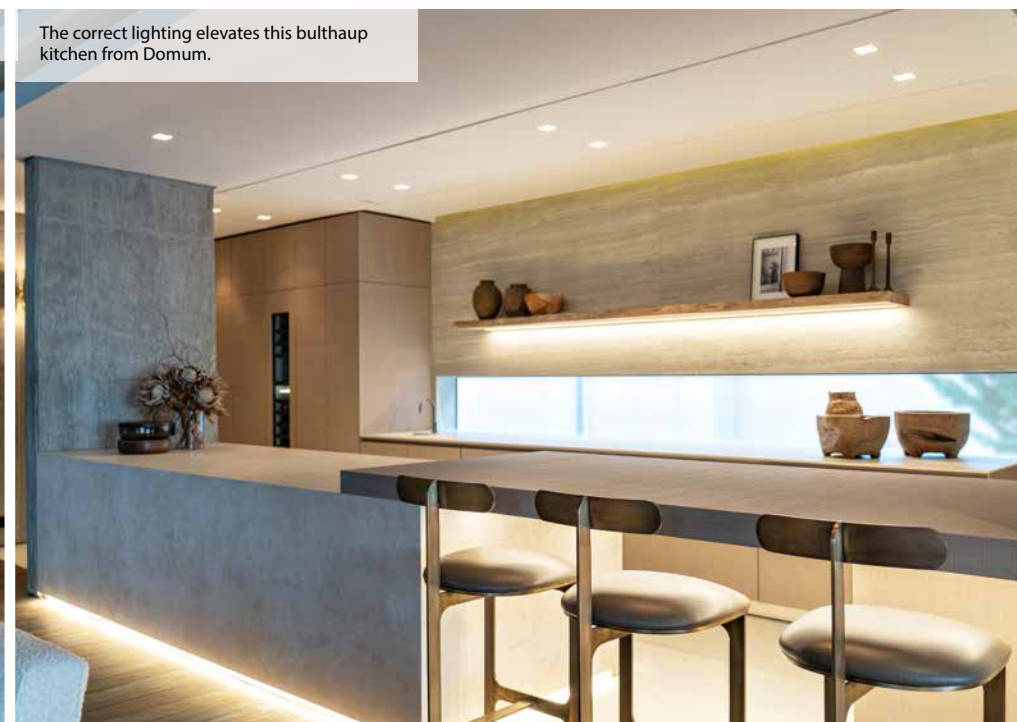
The contemporary kitchen, in essence, will not date in the near future. "The modern kitchen that can adapt to the ever-changing landscape of an interior is best used to describe a contemporary

kitchen," explains the design team at blu\_line. "This type of kitchen needs to have an architectural element as its anchor where texture, proportions and overall space dynamics are used together >

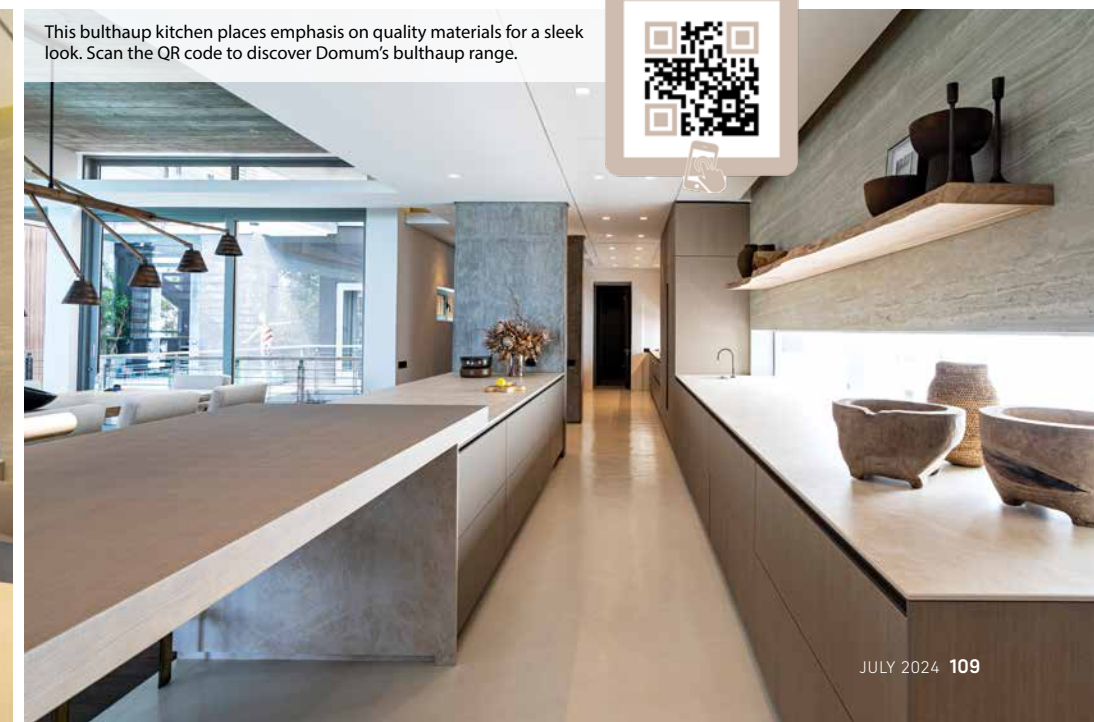
"We believe in real materials – wood, glass, aluminium, steel and stone." – **Ramon Casado**



The lighting here is both functional and visually impactful, Casarredo.



The correct lighting elevates this bulthaup kitchen from Domum.



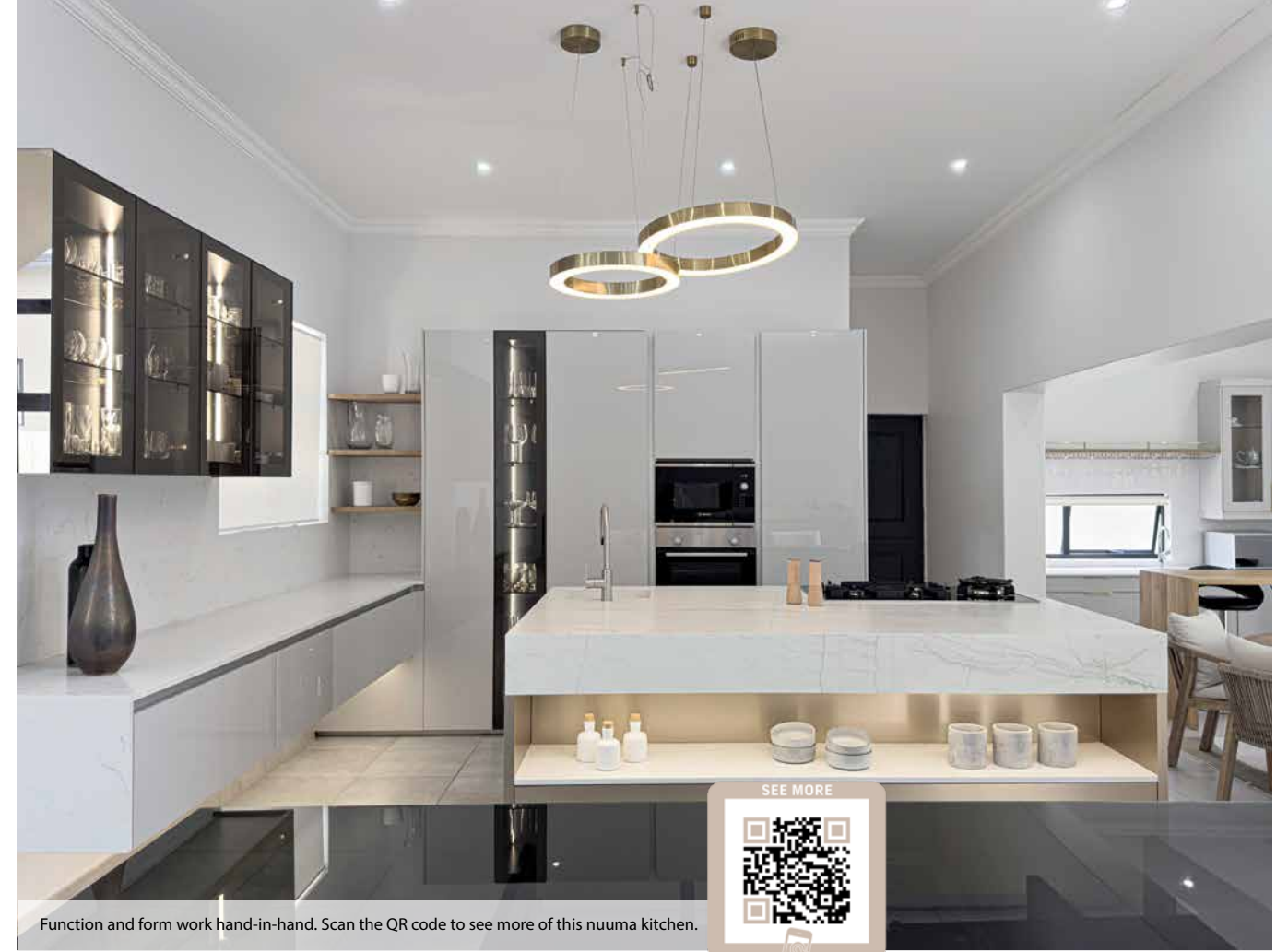
This bulthaup kitchen places emphasis on quality materials for a sleek look. Scan the QR code to discover Domum's bulthaup range.







You can use decorative pieces to add your personality to the space, Linear Concepts.



Function and form work hand-in-hand. Scan the QR code to see more of this nuuma kitchen.



to create a relational, aesthetically pleasing, luxurious space. The contemporary kitchen needs to offer emotion and functionality and be an art form," they say.

"The essential elements for a contemporary kitchen embrace a clean, minimalist aesthetic with slab-style/flat-panel cabinetry, creating sleek lines that define sophistication," Kayley Brazer, head of marketing at Casarredo, aptly puts it.

Fazlin Oosthuizen, head designer at Blend Africa, feels that an open-plan layout offering integrated dining is a definite must-have when creating a modern kitchen.

### MODERN MATERIALS THAT CREATE AN IMPACT

The selection of materials for this type of kitchen is tried and tested – materials that not only look amazing, but enhance the functionality of the space as well. "We believe in real materials – wood, glass, aluminium, steel and stone," explains Ramon Casado, design director at Domum, the company offering a selection of international brands, including bulthaup.

According to Craig Dexter from nuuma, sophisticated finishes like lacquers, timbers, glass and luxury metals are all necessary to bring about a modern look. "This goes even further where the details within these materials are really what sets them apart," he adds.

On finishes, the team of designers at the Ballito branch of Exotic Kitchens mentions matt and gloss textures used on flat-panel, soft-touch cabinetry for a modern aesthetic. They add that engineered quartz countertops work well as do porcelain slabs that provide a seamless look with minimal grout lines.

"The contemporary kitchen needs to offer emotion and functionality and be an art form."  
– blu\_line's design team

For added appeal, kitchen companies are including leathers as accent materials, which not only provide an innovative look, but also offer a tactile experience.

### COLOUR SCHEMES TO CONSIDER

When it comes to the right colour for the contemporary kitchen, although it will mainly depend on personal preference and the look of the rest of the home, two main palettes are referenced – bold colours or subdued hues.

"A contemporary kitchen typically features neutral or bold tones, including beiges or greys. These colours help create a

sleek, clean and modern look," says Selma Zaifoglu, director and architect at Linear Concepts. On the lighter colours, Oosthuizen notes that shades, including mushroom, taupe and warm-spectrum colours, are considered to create a long-lasting aesthetic.

Casado highlights that darker colour palettes for a bolder look are definitely seeing an uptake. "Think walnut and darker stained oak doors and cabinets. These often express a richness and modernity while still being true to the original materials."

On the overall usage of colours, Brazer explains that "while contemporary kitchens predominately embrace neutral colours, they may incorporate bold accents or fixtures to create visual interest".>



A darker palette offers a moody aesthetic, which is on-trend. Scan the QR code to see more of this twelve kitchen.



Integrated appliances are essential in the modern kitchen, Exotic Kitchens.



Stephen Rowley





A neutral colour palette with accents of black and grey, Blend Africa.

## MAKE A STATEMENT

There are several ways to ensure your contemporary kitchen offers a designer look so it becomes the highlight and heart of the home. “Glass units lend the kitchen space a sense of sophistication and class. Fluted glass is exceptional in this area,” says Lindy Goodbrand, designer at EuroCasa Africa.

The blu\_line team suggests using accent materials and design elements to create a modern furniture-style element, which is needed to ensure the kitchen anchors a space while also making a statement.

You should also consider appointing the kitchen island as a focal point – “we always like to consider the island as having a pivotal role to the design, where it serves not just itself, but also the surrounding space, and allows for flow of movement”, says Dexter.

There is a focus on the appliances used in a contemporary kitchen, too. The Exotic Kitchens team explains: “Contemporary kitchens offer innovative features that elevate their aesthetic appeal and functionality, such as state-of-the-art, built-in appliances that are integrated seamlessly into the cabinetry.”

To really elevate the experience of the kitchen, Zaifoglu recommends incorporating smart technology such as touchscreen appliances, automated lighting and Bluetooth speakers for added convenience and functionality.

Understanding that the contemporary kitchen demands more than the kitchen of the past, functionality is critical, and, according to Jenna Buys, from twelve, the kitchen of today has to also make a statement. “Therefore, the right elements like open shelving or glass units or even feature counters are critical when making this space stand out.” 🏡

**With thanks to Blend Africa, blu\_line, Casarredo, Domum (bulthaupt), EuroCasa Africa, Exotic Kitchens, Linear Concepts, nuuma, and twelve**

“An open-plan layout offering integrated dining is a definite must-have when creating a modern kitchen.”

– Fazlin Oosthuizen

## CONTEMPORARY APPEAL

**Follow these tips to create a modern kitchen that checks all the boxes for looks and functionality.**

- Open up the kitchen to create one cohesive kitchen, dining and living area. – **Fazlin Oosthuizen, Blend Africa**
- Ensure textures are used. – **blu\_line's design team**
- Consider cooking, workflow and storage needs at the planning stage. – **Kayley Brazer, Casarredo**
- Use cooktops that are barely visible and pocket doors for a decluttered look. – **Ramon Casado, Domum (bulthaupt)**
- Go with your gut and let the professional designer tie elements together for you. – **Lindy Goodbrand, EuroCasa Africa**
- Incorporate unique lighting for a design statement. – **Exotic Kitchens' design team**
- Install energy-efficient appliances and light fixtures to create a more sustainable kitchen. – **Selma Zaifoglu, Linear Concepts**
- Keep the less-is-more approach when creating a modern kitchen. – **Craig Dexter, nuuma**
- Once you are done with the essentials, you can then work on the intangibles – the elements that personalise the kitchen. – **Jenna Buys, twelve**