

# Luxury DEFINED

Kitchen trends for 2026 call for spaces where tactility is on par with aesthetics and functionality, writes **Trisha Harinath**



## DESIGN 101

Do not design your kitchen around appliances; design it around your architecture. **Doga Zaifoglu, Linear Concepts**, explains that the ultimate expression of 2026 luxury is an environment where:

- Appliances are not exposed, but meticulously hidden behind fronts.
- Visual continuity is king. Use features like double pocket doors using stone cladding to hide entire working zones.
- The final result should feel less like a utility room and more like a curated, architectural extension of the living space, where every element of the home's finish weaves through one signature, seamless flow.



There will be a focus on tactile refinement in the kitchen, bulthaup by Domum.

**M**uch emphasis has been placed on functionality and aesthetics in recent years when it comes to kitchen design. In 2026, an additional element will take centre stage – the way we experience our kitchen spaces through touch. Textures are in, in a big way, adding to the look of the space and providing a sensory experience that brings new meaning to luxury kitchen design.

**TOUCH SENSATION**

The design team from blu\_line highlights that we will notice a continued move towards architectural materials and a desire for natural-touch materials offering a timeless yet personalised bespoke design. “Natural-touch materials and textures that enhance the emotion of the space will be big. Expect the use of natural marbles and stones, layered glass features and custom-finished metals.”

“Textures are in, in a big way, adding to the look of the space and providing a sensory experience that brings new meaning to luxury kitchen design.”



Textured detailing will add luxury to the kitchen, nuuma.



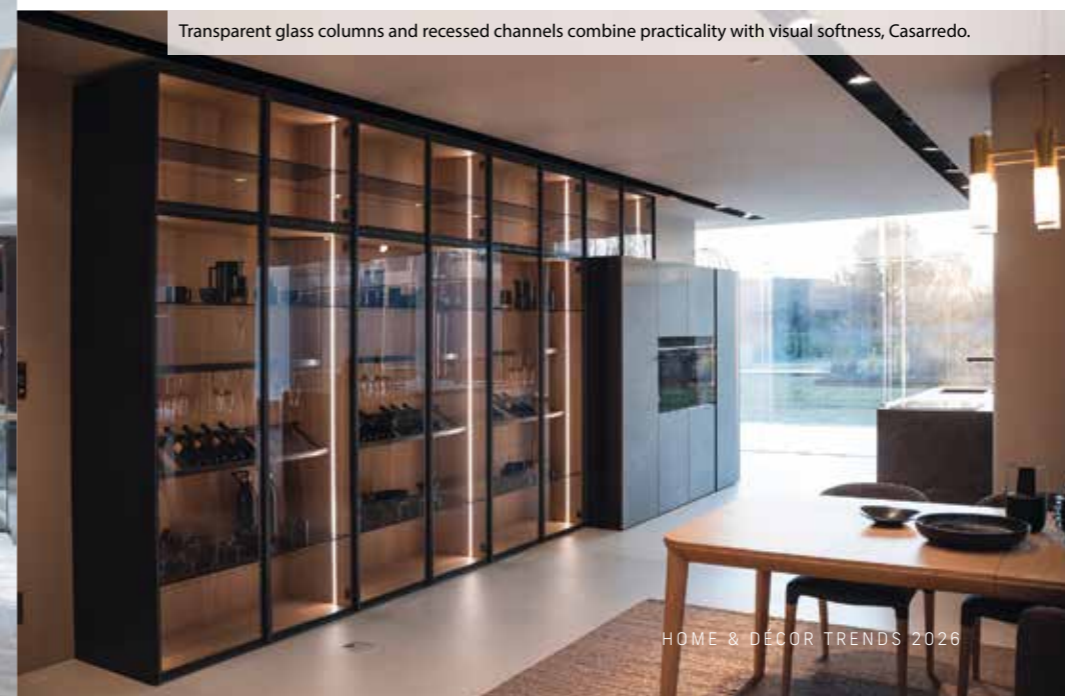
The kitchen of 2026 offers a luxury touch and emotive experience, blu\_line.

**SUSTAINABILITY LEADS**

The kitchen of 2026 and beyond sees sustainability taking centre stage. “The future is modular, repairable and recyclable – principles embodied in Valcucine’s Invitrum glass-base units and dematerialised aluminium structures. Upcoming collections explore reconfigurable components, recycled materials and durable finishes designed to last a lifetime. The goal is a kitchen that evolves gracefully, rather than being replaced.” – **Kayley Brazer, Casarredo.**

Managing director of bulthaup by Domum Ramon Casado expects to see a continued shift towards tactile refinement. He notes design details that engage both sight and touch – think finely fluted surfaces, subtle metallic accents in warm tones like bronze and champagne and the elegant interplay of matt and gloss finishes. “Smokey glass, soft illumination and integrated materials will be used to create layered depth rather than overt ornamentation. The emphasis will be on purity of line, honest materials and details that quietly elevate the everyday ritual of cooking and gathering.”

Jenna Buys from twelve says, when it comes to kitchen design, although less is more is important, textured materials add character to the space. “We believe there will be more textures coming through, showcasing natural-look finishes to add character to a modern space.” >



Transparent glass columns and recessed channels combine practicality with visual softness, Casarredo.



Soft illumination will feature, bulthaup by Domum.



Concealed appliances and functional workstations will be incorporated into kitchen designs, EuroCasa Africa.



Textured materials will add character to a kitchen space, twelve.



Consider natural marbles with severe veining and colouring together with natural wood or veneer, The Kitchen Studio.

### REFINED FINISHES

Due to the need for an enhanced tactile experience, there will be a growing interest in finishes. Dane Maharaj, head of brand and marketing at The Kitchen Studio, believes we will see more natural stones and marbles, fine-fluted glass, natural and

### STYLISH STATEMENT

- "Ensure the space is personalised through curated luxury design and materials." – **the blu\_line design team**
- Approach the kitchen as part of a whole, not a separate statement. The colours, textures and lighting should feel consistent with the rest of the home, allowing the space to stand out naturally rather than compete for attention." – **Kynne Theodorou, Interiology**
- "Pay less attention to trends and more attention to intention. Choose finishes and materials you will still love years from now. Trends can guide you, but intention should lead." – **Dane Maharaj, The Kitchen Studio**
- "Layer with intention! Start with a primary material like mid-tone wood cabinetry and add one or two accent textures or finishes, such as fluted glass doors or bronze hardware." – **Melanie Stein, EuroCasa Africa**
- "Choose quality materials, honest craftsmanship and a restrained design language. If your space feels calm, balanced and authentic to your way of living, it will always be on trend." – **Ramon Casado, bulthaup by Domum**

engineered veneers arranged in interesting grain patterns, solid woods with visible textured (left natural or painted) and softer, muted-tone metallic surfaces. "These finishes offer visual impact and longevity, which people are prioritising," says Maharaj.

Marketing manager at Linear Concepts Doga Zaifoglu mentions that there will be a demand for imported, high-quality finishes that speak of craft and rarity. Textured looks and boards, gilded brass and bronze and reflective matt will make their way into kitchen design. "Finishes mimicking natural textures – from rough-hewn timber to sophisticated linen – will dominate, often paired with metallic brushwork to create a dynamic interplay of rustic and refined. We are also seeing a shift to surfaces that are reflective but not glossy. Finishes that absorb light while offering a deep, pearlescent sheen – like an eggshell or a matt-satin lacquer – will replace high-gloss surfaces, providing a richer, more luxurious depth."

Melanie Stein, managing partner at EuroCasa Africa, says mid-tone wood veneers will replace dark or stark finishes, bringing warmth and timeless appeal. She also mentions that bold, large-slab stone surfaces with striking veining will be used for countertops and islands.

### KEY FEATURES

"The kitchen space must be seen as a symphony of understated yet sophisticated notes that effortlessly integrate with the surrounding interiors while making a statement of luxury on its own," explains

### TREND ALERT

"Keep an eye on door design details through the use of modern craftsmanship. Look for combinations of materials where there are layers to a finish, offering sophisticated depth and luxury." – **Craig Dexter, nuuma**

### LEVEL UP

"The use of levels in the kitchen to bring interest and create functional areas, for example, seating, will be an ongoing trend for open-plan modern kitchens." – **Jenna Buys, twelve**

nuuma's Craig Dexter. Achieving this will require more refined design elements, such as the use of concealed door systems and strategic wall cladding, which will become key features.

Interiology's managing director and head of design, Kynne Theodorou, says we will see a move away from the idea that a kitchen must be a series of boxes. "We are introducing more curves, sharper angles and compositions that challenge the conventional grid. The goal is to make the kitchen sculptural, not static. More fluidity, more movement, more unseen geometry that makes a space feel alive rather than assembled." >

The kitchen of 2026 will be a showcase of understated sophistication, nuuma.





Curves, sharper angles and compositions that challenge the conventional grid can be expected, Interiology.

EasyLife Kitchens is predicting comfortable luxury in 2026 with stylish yet homely kitchens.



For Kayley Brazer, head of marketing at Casarredo, the defining design-related trend is architectural integration. Kitchens will increasingly blend into open-plan living spaces. "Expect modular layouts, concealed appliances and layered LED lighting that adjusts throughout the day. Transparent glass column and recessed channels combine practicality with visual softness, creating environments that feel fluid, balanced and connected."

Monique Da Costa-Kilian, EasyLife Kitchens' national training manager, says stylish home wine displays and bar walls will gain momentum. "They have become statement features that add both luxury and personality to a space. Natural textures and warmer tones are still key here, keeping the overall look relaxed and inviting." 🏡

**With thanks to blu\_line, bulthaup by Domum, Casarredo, EasyLife Kitchens, EuroCasa Africa, Interiology, Linear Concepts, nuuma, The Kitchen Studio, and twelve**

#### GET THE LOOK

"Start with timeless finishes you love, then layer in trendy elements. Warm wood tones, matt textures and subtle metallics will always feel current. Keep your design simple and balanced and focus on texture and light."

– Monique Da Costa-Kilian, EasyLife Kitchens

# A Kitchen That Feels as Good as It Looks!



A home should be as inspiring as it is functional. Beko appliances bring beauty and performance together, redefining effortless living through purposeful design and innovation.

Step into a Beko state of mind – where your kitchen becomes a masterpiece of modern living.

Visit: [www.beko.com/za-en](http://www.beko.com/za-en)



DARE TO BE DIFFERENT.  
DESIGN WITH INTENTION.

JEEVES  
HEATED TOWEL RAILS

### Jeeves Tangent L Heated Towel Rail

Discover your signature style at On Tap — South Africa's destination for inspired bathroom and kitchen design. Bold yet refined, the Jeeves Tangent L Straight Black Heated Towel Rail redefines functional luxury.

[www.ontap.co.za](http://www.ontap.co.za)

on tap™  
PLUMBING AND BATHROOMS

EURO CASA  
ITALIA

febal  
casa



### Designing Dreams. Defining Spaces.

With over two decades of experience across Africa, we curate personalised kitchens, wardrobes, and interiors that fuse timeless Italian craftsmanship with modern living. Every space we touch is a blend of precision, elegance, and personality — tailored for those who demand more than just function. Discover a world where luxury meets lifestyle, and where every detail matters.

EuroCasa Italia - crafted for the continent, inspired by Italy.

+27 11 684 2221  
[info@eurocasa.co.za](mailto:info@eurocasa.co.za)

[www.eurocasa.co.za](http://www.eurocasa.co.za)  
30 Archimedes Street, Kramerville