



Old-school cool

A broad range of kitchen manufacturers are being drawn to the past for inspiration in the present, with Smeg and Kitchen Aid perhaps two of the most famous examples.

When asked why he thinks vintage-inspired design is still on the rise, ILVE's head of marketing, Daniel Bertuccio, says he thinks "hipsters are partly to blame", but he adds this is more than just a passing trend.

"People enjoy a sense of nostalgia in their lives; this could be because subconsciously it reminds them of their childhood and the way things used to be," says Daniel. "We have also found that more of our customers want stand-out kitchens and don't want theirs to look like those of their neighbours!"

The vintage look is most common in small appliances and tableware, items which are easily exchanged if you change your mind, but if you're certain that this is the style you're after, built-in products like stoves and tapware really make a statement.



1 Smeg '50s-style toaster and kettle, smeg.com.au 2 The English Tapware Company Perrin & Rowe satin brass tapware, englishtapware.com.au 3 Kitchen Aid stand mixer in Platinum, kitchenaid.com.au 4 ILVE Quadra freestanding cooker, live.com.au 5 Smeg '50s-style fridge/freezer, smeg.com.au 6 Orla Kiely Hen apron, orlakiely.com/uk 7 Orla Kiely '70s Flower casserole dish, orlakiely.com/uk 8 Orla Kiely '70s Flower pitcher, orlakiely.com/uk

OLD VS NEW

Although we are well into the age of the smart appliance, many companies are taking us back in time with beautiful updates on old favourites

Words Jill Stevens



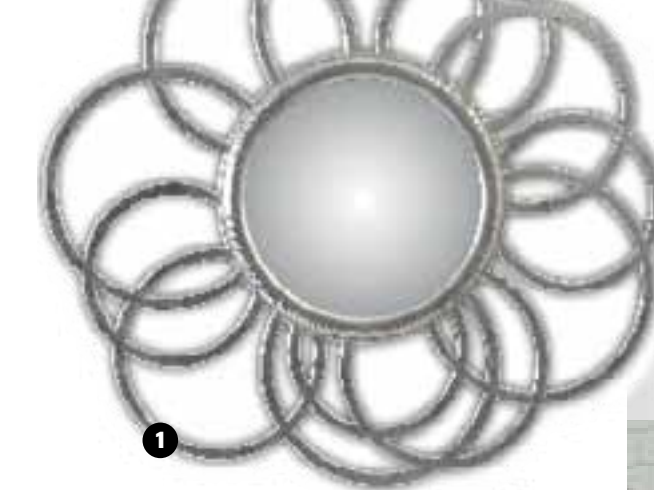
A brave new world

We're surrounded by smart appliances, and those that aren't already here are just around the corner. "With the new and innovative Family Hub refrigerator, we are transforming the communal kitchen experience for consumers," says John Herrington of Samsung Electronics America. "Now more than ever we are delivering in a big way on the promise of the Internet of Things, not only in refrigeration but in cooking, with a new Wi-Fi-connected range that takes cooking convenience to a new level."

While the Family Hub refrigerator isn't quite ready for the Australian market yet, smaller clever solutions are already here. Those who aren't natural cooks will love Drop Scale, which works with a free app to allow you to create delicious dishes without any guesswork. If your problem is creating the perfect coffee, DeLonghi's Primadonna Elite is also happy to work with your phone to create a perfectly catered beverage — and if you need help with the clean-up, InSinkErator's Food Waste Disposer is an ideal way to ditch any scraps.

Of course, all these high-tech wonders need a beautiful backdrop, so modern chrome accents and big, bold tapware, alongside a slick glass tabletop, would certainly foot the bill.

1 Scavolini Tavolo Loop table, scavolini.us 2 DeLonghi Primadonna Elite, delonghi.com 3 InSinkErator Food Waster Disposer, insinkerator.com.au 4 Samsung Family Hub refrigerator, samsung.com 5 Drop Scale, getdrop.com 6 Leicht Bondi design with L-Box fittings, leicht.com



Charm offensive

If you ask us, the key to a luxurious vintage-look powder room is all in the tub. With statement baths still very much in vogue, it's hardly surprising to find beautifully made older-style models, especially claw-foot baths, on the rise. For a truly retro-inspired style, choose all-white or add a black exterior to enjoy a luxurious old-world soak.

Tapware is also key, uncoated brass or modern chrome in vintage shapes is a perfect way to round out this look, and a hand-held shower is a great way to add functionality as well as style.

Tapware is also important in the shower, where the combination of a shower rose and a hand-held nozzle is a great nod to the past. Other fittings and accessories are equally important to create a look that's homely rather than horrifying! Vanities look best when freestanding, while mirrors and light fittings can be more integrated than their modern equivalents if you keep shapes simple.

Stunning marble, natural brick or intricate wall tiles are an ideal way to add a touch of the past. And if you'd like to add the large windows that feature in many modern-style rooms, intricate decoration will recall an older-look design while adding loads of light.

1 Victoria and Albert York bath, vandabaths.com **2 Brindabella Bathrooms**, brindabellabathrooms.com.au **3 English Tapware Company**, englishtapware.com.au **4 Brindabella Bathrooms**, brindabellabathrooms.com.au **5 Hawthorn Hill towel warmer**, englishtapware.com.au **6 Victoria and Albert Richmond bath**, vandabaths.com

More than meets the eye

While kitchen appliances are often replete with fancy features, sanitaryware isn't usually flush with such attributes. Instead, sleek and seamless is the order of the day, with any extras hidden inside gorgeous modern exteriors.

Regular readers will be well aware of how far spa baths have come over the years, with Ormivo's Ergobath an excellent example of beautiful form and incredible features. Modelled for the reclining form and packed with luxurious hydrotherapeutic jets, it's created from sturdy stainless steel and uses 33 per cent less water than similarly sized models. If you don't need jets, gorgeous curved designs like Victoria and Albert's Pescadero bath look modern and include the lush high tapware that allows you plenty of room to stretch out.

Even toilets offer clever features these days. Kohler's new Veil wall-hung Intelligent toilet is completely self-cleaning, automatically sanitising itself with UV light every 24 hours. The heated seat helps minimise pressure points, and advanced bidet features operated via a one-touch remote control offer ultimate comfort.

Of course, beautiful modern tapware in contemporary tones like black and chrome, alongside stools and other "now" accessories in lush curved shapes, are the perfect way to round out an ultra-modern space.

1 Maison Valentina Liberty mirror, maisonvalentina.net **2 Maison Valentina Erosion stool**, maisonvalentina.net **3 Kohler Moxie wireless speakers**, au.kohler.com **4 Meir tapware**, meir.com.au **5 Kohler Cuff Eco basin mixer**, au.kohler.com **6 Ergobath Classic Premium Freestanding**, ormivo.com **7 Kohler Veil wall-hung Intelligent toilet**, au.kohler.com **8 Victoria and Albert Pescadero bath**, vandabaths.com

