





itchens designed with entertaining in mind tend to have a warm and welcoming vibe, plenty of bench space, cosy seating, a few stylish designer touches, and modern appliances to make entertaining a breeze.

## A HAPPY HUB

We all know the contemporary kitchen is the heart of the home. To set the scene for relaxation and fun when entertaining, opt for a neutral or tranquil colour palette and add a splash of colour with accent pieces and decor. It's all about creating an inviting space where guests can feel comfortable pulling up a chair while you add the finishing touches to a meal, or relax and linger over coffee and dessert.

But of course, the ideal entertainer's kitchen is more than just good looks, it's a balancing act between functionality and aesthetic appeal. Because during the times you aren't wowing guests, your kitchen also needs to serve double duty as the family kitchen.

According to Michael Simpson, director of The Kitchen Design Centre, when planning a kitchen, good design in the kitchen layout is always key. "It needs to sit comfortably within the space, offer ease of access in and around it, and flow with the rest of the home," he says.

## GALLEY IS THE GO

As for what's popular right now in kitchen layout, Michael says galley-style kitchens with a remote island bench are a winner. "Galley style gives you the opportunity to have an evenly balanced design, the pantry on one side and the fridge on the other, hotplate in the middle and the sink in the island — so aesthetically it looks good," he says.

And if you enjoy entertaining at home, you can build on that. "We have things like appliance centres, tech hubs in island benches, there are second and even third ovens, there can also be two zones for fridges, with under-bench fridges as well," he says.

Getting the sense of flow right from the kitchen to outdoor entertaining spaces and alfresco areas is also important. A designer kitchen that offers seamless access to outdoor living creates a sense of connectivity and cohesion.



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