

# THE DESIGN JOURNAL

INTERIOR DESIGN INSIGHT + INSPIRATION



ISSUE 05 • NOVEMBER 2021 • KITCHEN SPECIAL EDITION

# Welcome to The Design Journal

YOUR MONTHLY MAGAZINE FOR NEWS AND INSPIRATION

Welcome to the November issue of The Design Journal, a publication that aims to provide insight and inspiration into interior design on both an industry and individual level. As Australia begins to emerge from the pandemic and increasingly open up, we have loved seeing our clients, colleagues and suppliers face-to-face once again.

It is a busy end to the year for the construction and design industries, but we remain grateful for the opportunity to work with so many incredible clients whose smiles endure despite challenging times. Certainly the stunning homes that continue to emerge despite 2021 lockdowns and supply shortages are a huge point of pride for the Melissa Lunardon Interior Design team. Be sure to follow us on Instagram to see some of the inspiring projects our team designs and styles for clients.

With the end of 2021 rapidly approaching, this is the perfect opportunity to think about the home design you want and need to take you into 2022 and beyond.

For many, a new kitchen is at the top of the list for 2022! The kitchen is most certainly the heart of the home and requires the most investment when both renovating or building, so it essential to get right.

This month we walk you through some of tips, tricks and processes for creating a kitchen of your dreams, with special attention to that all important detail - cabinetry finishes!

We also show you a beloved eclectic design from a bright and bold duplex in Altona in our Project in the Limelight for November.

We hope you enjoy reading and we look forward to seeing you again soon for our December Christmas edition.

With style and smiles,

Melissa Lunardon.  
Editor, The Design Journal

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## Melissa Lunardon

INTERIOR DESIGN



# Heart of the Home

WHY YOUR  
KITCHEN MATTERS  
AND HOW TO  
GIVE IT HEART

The kitchen is the space where families gather to create and share, which is why the room should be both functional and comfortable. Gone are the days of small, poky closed-in cooking spaces - the kitchen is the heart of the home and the epicentre for entertaining in 2021.

Whether your kitchen is being built from the ground up, demolished and rebuilt or getting a weekend facelift, kitchen renovations are a large commitment at every level. They also tend to require a larger financial investment than other rooms in your home. It is therefore essential that you choose the right finishes and appliances not only for you as the current homeowner, but also for your homes resale value.

Execution throughout the project from measuring to installation is equally important. After all, just one mistake can add thousands of dollars and weeks onto a build or renovation.

So let's consider the the best way to design a kitchen, discuss styles, look at the type of ideal flooring for kitchens, and learn the best renovation tips to help you get your dream kitchen today and for years to come.

# Creating The Kitchen Of Your Dreams

TIPS AND TRICKS FOR DESIGNING THE HEART OF YOUR HOME

## Start Smart

No matter what the scope of your kitchen project is, the most important step is the first step! It is highly recommended you take the time to start your project off on the right foot and do not rush. If you're in a hurry, it adds twice as much stress to the project.

It is not always easy, but when going into a renovation or building project try to enjoy the process. To facilitate that, it is really important to interview professionals and find a designer and a general contractor that can help you execute your project according to your budget, timeline and vision. Any kitchen project is an investment, and the professionals to guide you along the way should be included in that investment, too. A new kitchen really is a team effort so focus on finding the right people to bring your vision to life.



### See Everything in Person

While there are lots of bargains online, do not be hasty and ensure that you see everything in person before making a major decision. You can really tell the quality and features better when you can touch, feel, and see how everything works in person.

Work with your Designer and take your time to find exactly what you want!



### Invest In Quality Cabinetry

Cabinetry is the most important investment in a kitchen because cabinets are a product that you will literally use every day. They are also difficult to replace down the line (unless you want to completely renovate your kitchen).

It is therefore recommended you try to purchase the best quality cabinet that budget permits.



### Choose Smart Appliances

Depending on budget, smart appliances are worth considering. Many have truly game-changing features. For example, touch technology can open doors with the tap of an elbow. These days you can even get a smart range hood that offers guided cooking apps to assist while you cook, streams music and video, and can even record a video of your stovetop while cooking.

# Creating The Kitchen (continued)



## Build An Island

Kitchen islands are still very much in style and are far from a fad. If space permits, a new or renovated kitchen absolutely needs an island.

You may even consider outfitting the island with power and plumbing to make the space more usable. It's also better for resale.

## Prioritise Flooring

Flooring is often an afterthought in renovations but that doesn't mean it should be. While wood is the number one flooring choice for kitchens today, tile should not be overlooked as it offers some advantages over wood. For example, when your dishwasher overflows or the garbage disposal has a back-up, tile will handle the water.

With radiant heat becoming more economical, tile is now a cozy selection. Also, tile can solve matching wood issues. With natural wood and driftwood on-trend in today's kitchens, the floor needs to blend or match to the wood cabinetry selections. Tiling your floor is a great way to enable multiple tones and materials to work together.

However, if resale is a concern, consider installing hardwood instead of tile as it provides a clean and seamless experience from your main floor living space. If the flooring is a major issue, wood tile is certainly worth considering because it has the look of hardwood with the durability and benefits of ceramic tiles. Just make sure the grout lines are very thin or the aesthetic changes completely and certainly not for the better.



## Looking For Help?

Book a complimentary design call with Melissa Lunardon Interior Design today to discuss your next kitchen project. Just head to: [www.melissalunardon.com](http://www.melissalunardon.com).

# Creating The Kitchen (continued)



## Don't Forget Lighting

There are lots of ways to light a kitchen and while this might feel like a minor detail, it is anything but. Lighting is always a worthwhile investment and literally can change everything. Examples include extra pot lights, under counter lighting and pendant lighting over the island. These specific task lights make the space come alive and if you can put the pendants on a dimmer, this will make all the difference.



## White Kitchens Still Prevail

Style trends tend to happen in cycles and the bold colours that you might love one year can become stale as your family evolves. But you can't go wrong with a white kitchen coupled with mostly neutral and classic finishes. Most people find that any variation of white keeps the feeling classic, clean and modern. Of course, that doesn't mean you can't have colour in your kitchen. Choose bright stools, window treatments, art, and other décor to help personalise the space with colour.



A kitchen scene featuring light-colored wooden cabinets, a white subway tile backsplash, and a white farmhouse sink. A window above the sink shows a brick wall and greenery outside. On the countertop, there are wooden cutting boards, a small white bowl, and a vase with red flowers. A large dark grey circle is overlaid on the center of the image, containing white text.

**“KITCHENS  
SHOULD BE  
DESIGNED AROUND  
WHAT IS TRULY  
IMPORTANT - FUN.  
FOOD AND LIFE”**

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**DANIEL BOULUD**

# The Morphing Modern Kitchen

## CHANGING KITCHENS AND THE CABINET FINISH

These days, a kitchen is just as important for cooking and entertaining as it is for the overall value of a home and there are many factors to consider when planning to build or renovate your kitchen.

At Melissa Lunardon Interior Design, we have seen and designed kitchens of all shapes and sizes – some that have included impressive audio visual; polyurethane kitchen pantries large enough to house cattle; professional café nooks and cocktail corners; live 'green walls' that stretch from floor to ceiling with plants and herbs; and the list goes on. But regardless of the size, shape or colour of these kitchens, the one thing that can ruin any perfect arrangement is an unsuitable finish.

This issue of The Design Journal will discuss popular kitchen finish options and how to choose the one most suitable for your kitchen project.

### What Exactly is a Kitchen Finish?

Kitchen finishes are the coating used on items such as cabinetry and benchtops. They range from natural materials like stone and timber to other manmade products like polyurethane kitchens, laminate and melamine. With a huge range of choices available, it is quite easy to get swept away in the sea of options, neglecting the big picture. When choosing a finish for your kitchen cabinetry, there are a few fundamentals that should always be considered first. These include:

- Intended use – the main uses of your kitchen (cooking, entertaining, storage, etc)
- Household demographic – who lives here/is going to live here (families, older couple etc)
- Interior design – what finish will work best with interior aesthetics
- Budget – what you have to spend





# Finishes for Kitchen Cabinetry

## SORTING THROUGH THE OPTIONS TO FIND YOUR KITCHEN SOLUTION

When choosing your kitchen cabinets, the most important decision you'll make is not the colour, size, style or handle types, it's the cabinet finish.

The cabinet finish you choose can create a dramatically different look regardless of the material the cabinets are made of.

We'll walk you through the options you can choose from and some of the advantages and disadvantages of both.

*"Getting your design and cabinetry right is crucial. You won't get a second chance once your kitchen is installed!"*

*~ Melissa Lunardon*

### Textured Melamine

Laminex and Polytec have a great range of textured melamine in a range of plain and timber looks that give the appearance of timber veneer. This is an affordable option and has a beautiful grain to touch. You can play around with the direction of the timber grain and run it horizontal or vertical (as pictured below in this Williamstown home by Melissa Lunardon).



### Sheen Melamine

If you are after a slight gloss to your kitchen, a sheen melamine board is a great alternative to achieve a gloss kitchen. Keep in mind with any lighter colours, you will notice a thin black edging.



# Finishes for Kitchen Cabinetry (continued)



## Ultra Matt Melamine

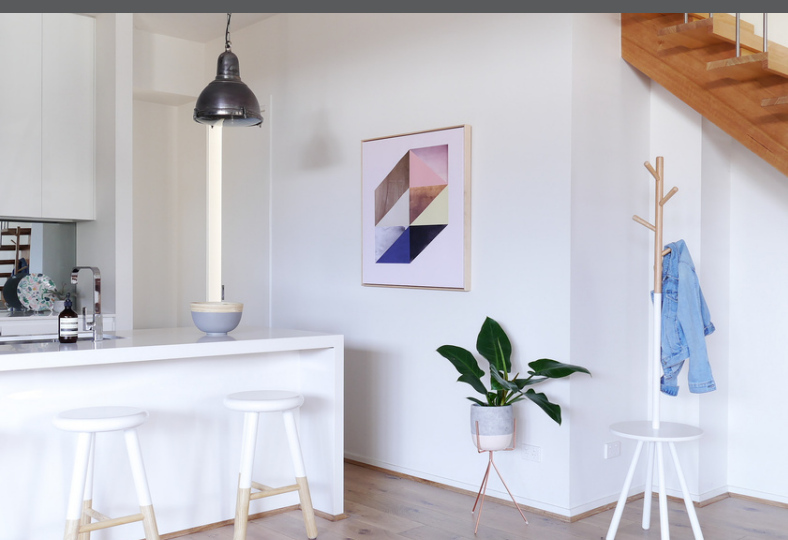
This fantastic new product is a revolution to the industry! You can create the look of a matt 2-pack high end kitchen with this affordable ultra matt product. Laminex call it AbsoluteMatte and Polytec called it Legato.

This velvet smooth finish is fingerprint resistant, is great for a handleless kitchen and creates a contemporary look. Most people find it intriguingly tactile and we love that it also features antibacterial protection for added peace of mind in the kitchen.

## Vinyl Wrap

Vinyl Wrap is made by stretching a thin sheet of vinyl over a cut and routed piece of MDF. First, glue is applied to the door and edge and then the vinyl is vacuum sealed to the door so you get a seamless look with no visible edges. Its thermoformed surface makes it resistant to the usual knocks and bumps of a busy household and is easy to keep clean.

Vinyl wrap gives you the flexibility to introduce a range of profiles and is available in gloss, matt or textured finishes in various colour profiles.



## 2-Pack

2-pack is a paint finish that is sprayed on just like a car. Due to being a paint finish, the colours are endless as you can colour match to pretty much any paint brand. The finish is quite seamless and is available in many more door profiles than vinyl. Vinyl doors aren't as crisp as profiles on 2 pack doors. Do keep in mind the hard corners on a 2-pack kitchen can be prone to chipping.

# Finishes for Kitchen Cabinetry (continued)



## Timber Veneer

Timber veneer is real timber, sliced very finely and pressed onto an MDF board. It is a renewable and sustainable resource. It has been used for many years, and the timeless beauty of antique furniture attests to the lasting quality of veneering art.

Decorative Veneer is produced by slicing or peeling selected logs to an approximate thickness of 0.6mm. You can select from a range of ways the timber is cut, as it provides many grain patterns and finishes. It's durable and can be sanded back if damaged or scratched.

Timber veneer is a premium finish and can be quite costly, but combine it with vinyl or 2-pack to balance the budget and keep a cohesive look. Use veneer in low-impact areas such as vertical surfaces (cabinet doors, for instance).



## Your Cabinetry

We know that kitchens have morphed from cooking quarters into entertainment meccas that project life into the rest of the home. At Melissa Lunardon Interior Design, we have seen and designed kitchens of all shapes and sizes. But regardless of the size, shape or colour of these kitchens, the one thing that can ruin any perfect arrangement is an unsuitable finish. Let us help you choose the best finishes to suit the purpose of your new kitchen, who's going to be living there and how much money you want to spend. Because your future memories deserve it.

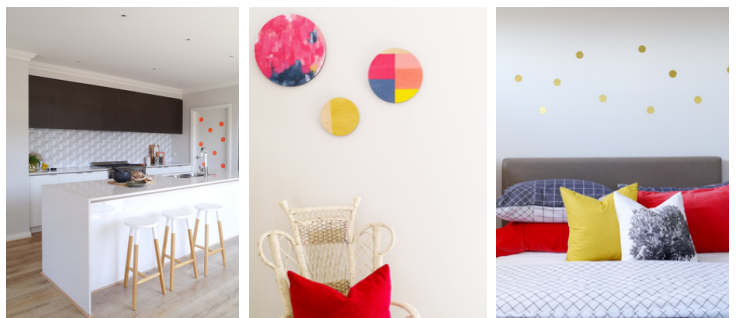
# Project in the Limelight

ALTONA, VICTORIA



This month we feature a unique and eclectic beachside duplex from Altona, Victoria.

The clients approached Melissa Lunardon to specify full internal and external materials and finishes for their new townhouse development. With the clients love of colour and a highly eclectic style, it was important to capture their personality throughout the home.



New furniture, artwork and homewares were selected to work with existing pieces. We love the bright yellow front door, which sets stage to the personality-infused home within. The interior features patterned tiles, bold colour, polkadots and stylistically mismatched furniture. It is the epitome of good design - a home that meets the wants, needs, lifestyle and personality of those living within it.



“

*The amazing thing about interior design is that anything goes and there are no set rules. If your heart beats for bold colours and eclectic furniture we can make that happen with beauty and balance. It is all about being bespoke to those who live and laugh within the walls of the home. No two people are the same, and no two homes should be, either.*

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## Inside the December issue:

VERTICAL GARDENS +  
OUTDOOR SPACES

CHRISTMAS  
ENTERTAINING

PERFECT POWDER  
ROOMS

TRENDS FOR 2022

PROJECT IN THE  
LIMELIGHT

## Thank you for reading

Melissa Lunardon Interior Design is an experienced and friendly team of professional designers working to help client dreams come to life. Driven by a deep passion for design and style, the team work closely with clients to articulate their unique vision and a stylish point of view where art, form and function co-exist in a true reflection of the client's needs, lifestyle and personality.

Founded in 2011, the Melbourne-based company has evolved into an interdisciplinary brand that is leading the contemporary design conversation with expert residential, hospitality, commercial and retail projects across an expansive portfolio of designs and brand collaborations. From conception to install, the team can assist every step of the way to make the design of your home a journey abounding with ease, joy and fulfilment.

For more information, or to contribute to The Design Journal, please visit: <https://www.melissalunardon.com> or email: [studio@melissalunardon.com](mailto:studio@melissalunardon.com).

