



WHERE THE WIDER design world goes, kitchens are bound to follow and we're seeing a move away from the industrial/commercial influence of previous years towards more earthy, one-off looks. The look is natural luxury, with materials such as wood and stone and textured, even rough-hewn, surfaces (where practical) taking their place alongside gloss and shine. Kitchen designers are specifying built-in storage units and breakfast bars influenced by hutches and dining tables – sometimes you can't quite tell if a piece is fitted or freestanding. Tile manufacturers are offering the natural look of stone combined with the best in practical functionality. At Heritage Tiles, porcelain tiles (no two exactly alike) mimic stones such as basalt and marble, thanks to the latest inkjet printing technologies.

High-tech glamour hasn't disappeared of course. Elica's Star rangehoods, available from Häfele, offer air extraction combined with an eye-catching hanging light in stainless steel and glass. And, if a television screen is required, then it's likely to be large, ultra-flat and take pride of place on a kitchen wall; it might even be the control hub from which you manage your home's heating, lighting, security and entertainment. Speaking of technology, some of today's cast-iron Aga cookers from FL Bone surprisingly incorporate a touch-screen control panel and remote control operation. Now that's a fresh twist on a traditional appliance! >

ALL SHOTS ON THESE PAGES Kitchen designed by Natalie Du Bois. Thank you to Linda and Mark for the use of their kitchen.

TOP RIGHT ILVE 90cm Titanium oven, Venis wall tiles from Jacobsen; on back shelf: black Peugeot **pepper mill** \$115 and Simunovich **olive oil** \$19.95, both from Milly's; black **casserole** with lugs \$142 and aged terracotta **pots**, large \$32 and small \$16, all from French Country; wooden Peugeot Paris **pepper mill** \$160.95 from Milly's; oval **cheese board** \$140 from Citta Design; **tea towel** \$15 from French Country.

RIGHT Parex HC1100 hot water tap, Minta tap by Grohe; **knife** part of cutlery set \$118, white linen **napkins** \$47 for a set of four and vintage **mason jar** \$48, all from French Country; **kitchen scales** \$79.90 from The Homestore; soda siphons (at back) owners' own.

OPPOSITE Samsung fridge, Venis wall tiles from Jacobsen, Parex HC1100 hot water tap, Minta tap by Grohe; on stainless steel unit: white stripe **baskets** \$334 for a set of six from French Country; on back shelf: small aged terracotta **pot** \$16 from French Country; **sauce** \$11.95, **olive oil** \$19.95, black Peugeot Paris **pepper mill** \$115, wooden Peugeot Paris **pepper mill** \$160.95 and Cuisinart **kettle** \$159, all from Milly's; black grill pan and soda siphons owners' own; on front bench/table: white Imprenta **footed platter** \$115.50 from Citta Design; white Primitif dinner **plates** \$21.50 each and soup **bowls** \$15.50 each, all from French Country; white Imprenta **jug** (holding flowers) \$99.90 from Citta Design; **cutlery** set \$118 for 24 pieces, soft grey **napkin** \$47 for a set of four and industrial **bar stools** \$715 each, all from French Country.

