



luxe
nostalgic nod

Refined lighting, glossy surfaces and designs that take their cue from the home around them are emerging in the trend toward towards 'luxe'.

style file

How to bring in the look:

- Traditionally 'living room' lighting adds a layer of luxe decoration.
- Decorative panelling attracts the eye but diverts the attention from the fact you are looking at a kitchen.
- High-sheen surfaces are a must for the ultimate in luxury.
- Fixtures as furniture epitomise the style, which can also include freestanding pieces that usually dwell in the living room.

“We wanted it to look like a kitchen and like a beautiful piece of furniture, plus there is a circle motif throughout the home, so the panels tie in the kitchen with the rest of the house.”

Mod and traditional designs are back, says celebrated Australian interior designer Greg Natale in this kitchen. Glossy-black on glossy-black surfaces and cabinetry that looks more like furniture lead this design that recedes into the background of this open-plan home. And a refined Art Deco-style pendant further accentuates the luxe feel without overpowering the space. Black-stained brush box flooring, ebonised oak cabinetry with panel decoration and granite benchtops give a noir sheen

that should feel hard, but instead has a gentleness. “It’s soft because of the materials, the ebonised oak has so much texture and depth that it is soft. If we had used black 2 pak, it would have felt masculine and hard,” Greg says. And granite is an interesting choice in the kitchen. “Granite is a great material and will become really popular as it hasn’t been used for about 25 years... it was used in the 80s, then the 90s were minimal and the noughties were about decoration. Now, it will come back,” he says. The sharp edges of

the high-sheen stone coupled with the squared-off lines of the stainless steel cooking appliances balance the softness with a functional feel – “we wanted the kitchen to be a kitchen” – and glass-door inserts work with the oak panelling to add a layer of decoration through architectural form and china collections. “You can show off your Wedgwood – many clients are doing that now,” says Greg. Nostalgic? Definitely. Luxe? Beautifully achieved with a refined edge. *Greg Natale Design (02) 8399 2103, www.gregnatale.com.*