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kitchen trend: modern monochrome

SLEEK YET TACTILE, MINIMALIST YET INVITING, THIS FRESH TAKE ON CLASSIC TONES IS FILLED WITH WARMTH AND TEXTURE

Commissioned by a couple seeking a striking new home in Melbourne, architects Tecture conceived an imposing property in dark-grey brick and timber slats. Inside, Studio Tate continued the monochrome approach for the kitchen-diner, adding subtle textural finishes to soften the minimalist aesthetic. 'A key design focus was to ensure a seamless flow with the external architecture and interiors, and so a reduced colour palette of soft grey and black was chosen for the kitchen cabinetry,' recalls Alex Hopkins, director, principle designer and interior architect, Studio Tate. 'This monochrome base allowed the soft furnishings, furniture and artwork to provide any colour required.'

Slabs of terrazzo were introduced to bring in delicate pattern. 'It's a fabulous material that is durable, easy to maintain and reasonably cost effective, when compared to a marble for example.' The slab-like worktops are made from composite quartz in a concrete-like grey that has been colour-matched on the drawer fronts for a modular look. 'The clients love cooking and didn't want a material that was too precious; durability was their priority,' explains Alex.

The layout was designed with two dining experiences in mind. A standalone table for relaxed, sit-down meals and stools at the island for informal eating 'on the go'. The pedestal base at the bar end of the island is a semi-circle of matt-black powder-coated steel. 'The curve allows for several stools to provide flexible entertaining,' says Alex. 'It also creates a nice contrast to the straight lines evident throughout the rest of the architectural interior details.'

Rakumba's Highline pendant cuts a sleek line above the island. Alongside American oak flooring and timber dining furniture, this slither of brass warms the monochrome scheme for relaxed family living.



need to know

THE PROPERTY A three-bedroom new-build in Melbourne, Australia. **DESIGNER** Alex Hopkins, director, principle designer and interior architect, Studio Tate. **KEY FEATURES** Cabinetry, custom made in Australia. DesignSpace London can supply similar in the UK, kitchens start from £25,000.

Quartz **worktops** by Essastone; Caesarstone's 4004 Raw Concrete, £450sq m, is similar. Monte Carlo terrazzo **slabs** from Signorino in Australia. In the UK, try Venetian Marble porcelain terrazzo tiles, £100sq m, Domus. HB672GBS1B built-in **single ovens** in stainless steel; EH801FVBIE **induction hob**

in black, £710; LB79585GB 70cm canopy **cooker hood**, £569, all Siemens. Andano 500/180-u stainless steel undermounted **sink**, £469.99, Blanco. Lusso Stone's Flow matte black single lever **mixer tap**, £145, is similar. Highline **pendant light** by Rakumba in satin waxed finish, £2,460, Darklight Design

The black timber tall units include pocket doors that slide away to reveal additional prep space and small appliances

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FEATURE IMAGE: CLAYTON
PHOTOGRAPH: NERVENA WELLS