

2023

How will home design evolve in future, given all the factors influencing our material and style choices? Australia's leading architects and designers share their visions for the year ahead

DESIGN

FORECAST



Rachel Nolan
Principal, Kennedy Nolan

Where do you see kitchen design heading this year?

We're working on quite a lot of apartments and it's particularly enjoyable delivering kitchens within these smaller homes – they must be efficient and functional but still offer something visually fresh. Inevitably in apartment living, the kitchen is integral to the entire living space. As designers, we must moderate the balance of the user not feeling like they are living in their kitchen.

What does this mean for how we will be using this space?

We like the idea of a big 'little' kitchen – maximising what you have for greater use. For instance, an 800mm deep benchtop where you can work on the first 500mm depth but store the equipment you need in the remaining depth. Likewise, overhead cupboards can afford greater depth – 400mm overhead is actually useful.

Which product should everyone include in their 2023 kitchen?

We're embracing Laminex as a great Australian product. It's affordable, durable and has great colours. Laminex is interested in exploring new directions and seeking the opinions of architects and interior designers. kennedynolan.com.au



PHOTOGRAPHY: DEREK SWALLOWELL

KITCHEN

KITCHEN

Madeline Sewall
Director of houses,
Breathe Architecture

Where do you see kitchen design heading this year? In the past couple of years we've seen a huge shift in demand for fossil-fuel-free kitchens, and we expect 2023 to be the year of no gas! Clients are increasingly aware of their impact on the planet, so energy-efficient, water-smart appliances and effective waste management will be musts this year.

What does this mean for how we will be using this space? Living in and using an all-electric kitchen is a dream!

Induction cooktops feature glass surfaces that are very easy to keep clean, and ongoing running costs are minimal if you select appliances that are energy- and water-efficient. Having dedicated bins for your waste streams – recycling, compost, soft plastics, rubbish – makes separating waste effortless.

The product everyone should include in their kitchen is...

Sussex tapware – it's Australian-made and we love it. Sussex is the first carbon-neutral tapware company. It has a beautiful range of solid brass tapware with unlacquered, living finishes, which add a beautiful patina and richness to our projects, plus they are 100 per cent recyclable.

breathe.com.au



BATHROOM



Yasmine Saleh Ghoniem
Principal, YSG

Where do you see bathroom design heading this year?

Bathrooms have to work pretty hard as they're contemplative spaces where you start and end your day. My best ideas often come to me in the shower each morning, so the setting needs to stimulate my senses. Colour is key, as are tactile elements like tapware. Come nightfall, bathrooms have to calmly settle your mind, which is why dimmable lighting is essential. Lately, we've been installing sound systems to set ambient moods. Shower spaces are gaining more elbow room and there's a preference for walk-ins so you can float in and out.

What does this mean for how we will be using this space?

Bathrooms are key extensions of a home's aesthetic, not an afterthought, and none more so than powder rooms. These shared spaces are becoming evocative escapist zones with coloured tiles, sculptural lighting elements (especially sconces), exquisitely veined marble vanities and customised integrated sinks. House guests will be forgiven for lingering in there a little longer than necessary.

The product that everyone should include in their 2023 bathroom is... Practical ornamentation in the form of fun ceramic wall hooks gets our vote. We love India Mahdavi's 'Take Me' collection and Schneid Studios' 'Fossil' wall hooks. Who doesn't need a playful pop to brighten their routine?

ysg.studio



PHOTOGRAPHY: NIKLAS JESSEN AND JULIA MÜLLING (WALL HOOKS), PRUE RUSCOE (POWDER ROOM), MARTINA GEMMOLA (PINK BATHROOM)



Monique Woodward
Director, WOWOWA

Where do you see bathroom design heading this year?

At WOWOWA it will be all about dirty colours – browns, murky greens, greys. Joy can be found anywhere and there's nothing we love more than a delightfully moody wet area!

What does this mean for how we will be using this space?

We want bathrooms to be immersive. To feel calm and serene, regal and playful all at once. A bathroom should show up as the antidote to a hectic life, a moment of much-needed peace.

The product everyone should include in their 2023 bathroom is... A skylight. Add one wherever possible. There is nothing more magical than watching the rain above you in the bath.

wowowa.com.au



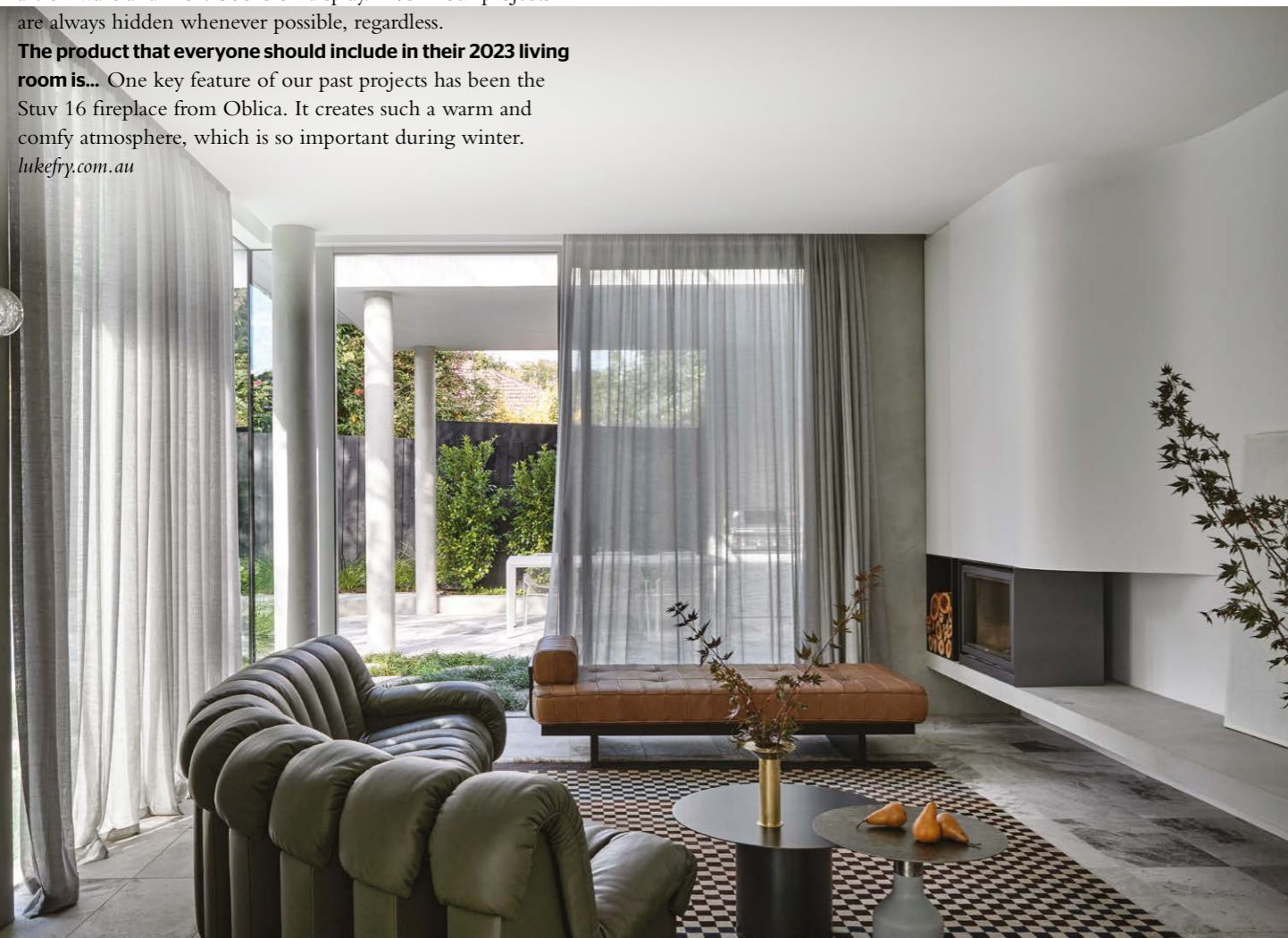


Luke Fry
 Director, *Luke Fry Architecture & Interior Design*

Where do you see living-room design heading this year? I'd like to see it more focused on living, communicating and enjoying reading or music, rather than being centralised around a TV. This isn't a new trend, but I feel it's increasingly more important as life continues to be busier and more disconnected from face-to-face quality time.

What does this mean for how we will use these spaces? There will be more centralised furniture arrangements, more art on walls and more books on display. TVs in our projects are always hidden whenever possible, regardless.

The product that everyone should include in their 2023 living room is... One key feature of our past projects has been the Stuv 16 fireplace from Oblica. It creates such a warm and comfy atmosphere, which is so important during winter.
lukefry.com.au



LIVING



Lara Ette
 Founder, *Lara Ette Design + Decoration*

Where do you see living-room design heading this year? I think our immediate past informs the answer and, right now, that means the pandemic. Will we need our spaces to be bright and cheerful? Or calm and restorative? What does the immediate future hold? Will there be a recession or austere times ahead? Whatever the mood my clients require, I will continue to use lots of colour and texture in my schemes to achieve it.

What does that mean for how we will decorate living spaces? Our living areas will foster a mood. For a bright and colourful living space, I like to use rugs or custom wall-to-wall carpets as a great way to include colour – it's art for your floors. If the brief is for a more calm and restorative space, I might use lots of ambient lighting with floor and table lamps and wall lights, softer colour choices for walls and upholstery, and shaggy rugs underfoot.

The product everyone should include in their 2023 living space is... A Hem 'Puffy' ottoman and lounge (right). I'm also loving the shape and comfort of the Mattiazzi 'Medici' lounge chair (top), stool and side table, all from District.
laraettedesign.com



LAUNDRY

Kasia Clarke and Ania Forster
 Founders, *Zephyr + Stone*

Where do you see laundry design heading this year?

In 2023, laundry design will continue to push boundaries with more integration and functionality than ever before. This could include customised storage and segmentation with solutions like laundry bins, hanging rails and ironing centres, and more integration of mudroom-type storage and seating. Homeowners will expect laundries to include the luxury finishes and inclusions historically reserved for kitchens, such as customised storage, stone, feature tiles and tapware.

What does that mean for how we will be using this space?

No longer relegated to the back corner of the home, the modern Australian laundry is often located close to, or flowing directly from, the kitchen and/or garage, with access to an external clothesline. Customised storage means laundry spaces will be more organised than ever before – a proper utility room with every convenience and a beautiful aesthetic.

The product everyone should include in their 2023 laundry is...

Integrated laundry bins – at least two, so you can sort lights from darks as they go in. Also, more integrated drying systems, from a single hanging rail to foldable clothes airers and the king of all solutions – a proper drying cupboard with integrated rails, storage, ventilation and a heating source.
zephyrandstone.com.au



Ashley Collins
 Franchisee, *Harvey Norman Balgowlah*

Where do you see laundry design heading this year? We're veering away from traditional white and light stainless-steel appliances in favour of a more sleek, dark stainless-steel finish, with washers and dryers in the same finish to match.

What does that mean for how we will be using the laundry?

The laundry is no longer just a part of the house to be hidden away – and furthermore, appliances are becoming the showpieces of the space, thanks to their sophisticated finishes.

The product everyone should include in their 2023 laundry is...

A large-capacity heat pump dryer with up to a 10-star energy rating, which means you can do your laundry in any weather and are substantially cheaper to run than old-model dryers. Laundry cabinets are another new product that lets you hang delicate garments that normally wouldn't go into a washer or dryer, to keep them clean and fresh without damaging the material.
harveynorman.com.au

PHOTOGRAPHY: MINDI COOKE (LAUNDRY), KAYE (LUKE PORTRAIT), DEREK SWALWELL (LUKE FRY PROJECT), HEIST CREATIVE (LARA PORTRAIT); STYLING: JESS KNEEBONE (LUKE FRY PROJECT)



Ryan Russell and Byron George
Directors, Russell & George

Where do you see home office design heading this year?

We see a blurring of the virtual and the physical in far more poignant ways. Online meetings will most likely be held in virtual meeting spaces, rather than sitting at your desk behind a camera. Physical office spaces will adapt to this change, creating an immersive environment beyond the screen, desk and chairs.

What does that mean for how we will be using this space?

In our view, the home office will become more about utilising the space for focused personal work. For remote virtual meetings, utilising VR headsets or similar spaces within the home will also come into play as will other locations outside it.

The product everyone should include in their 2023 home office is...

Given we are all spending a lot of time on our devices and looking at illuminated screens, it's important to have the right lighting around you. Products such as the Philips 'Hue' ambiance smart light globes can allow for lighting levels within your work environment to seamlessly adjust to circadian rhythms, minimising eye strain and creating a healthier environment to work in. russellandgeorge.com

Mick Burgon
Residential design & lifestyle manager, Clipsal

Where do you see home-office design heading this year?

As our work and personal lives become increasingly intertwined, we're going to see more multifunctional spaces. We're moving away from sitting at the dining table or kitchen bench with a high-back stool, but not everyone has the extra room or budget to build an extension that fits their needs. A home office may be a work-from-home space during working hours, a homework hub in the afternoon, and a hobby station over the weekend.

What does that mean for how we will be using this space?

Having a dedicated space that you can work from, even if it is a multifunctional one, will boost productivity and creativity. It also means that you can walk away and leave it all ready and set up for the next day.

The product everyone should include in their 2023 home offices is...

A USB fast charger. Its battery level can go from zero to 70 per cent in about 20 minutes, which is perfect for those who need to make calls all day long. Also, a Wiser indoor camera, so we can juggle work with keeping an eye on the safety of our children and pets. clipsal.com



PHOTOGRAPHY: EARL CARTER (RUSSELL & GEORGE); YANA KLEIN (SIMONE PORTRAIT); JADE CANTWELL (GRÜN ECO PROJECT)



Simone Schenkel
Founder, Grün Eco Design

Where do you see sustainable design heading this year?

The biggest challenge will be transitioning from 6-star energy requirements to 7 stars under the National Construction Code. The responsibility lies with designers and architects – it's our job to come up with creative ways to give clients the house they want while making sure the design complies with the requirements. I believe design and orientation will be key to achieving this. Living areas need to be placed to allow maximum solar access into the house, while also taking shading and overheating in summer into account.

What does this mean for how we will be using our homes?

Once a house becomes more energy-efficient and airtight, over time, humidity will likely become an issue. Just by living in our homes, by breathing, showering and cooking, we produce a huge amount of humidity. If it is not expelled, it can and will create water and mould issues. To combat this, you need to do proper cross-ventilation at least twice a day for 10-15 minutes. And, no, keeping your awning window open won't cut it.

The product everyone should include in their sustainable 2023 home design is...

Some sort of mechanical ventilation system. I always recommend adding one to a home – Zehnder ComfoAir is a good one. Or at least, install a good sensor that will track humidity levels as well as CO₂ content. gruenecodesign.com.au





Sonja Markovic
Co-founder, Evitat

Where do you see sustainable design heading this year?
The increasing frequency of extreme climate events (floods, heavy storms, cyclones and fires in particular) will draw more attention to material choices. People will want to protect and future-proof their homes with bio-materials and natural mineral coatings. The rising cost of living will also place significance on the use of passive solar principles – utilising orientation and managing the sun to heat and cool naturally.

What does this mean for how we will renovate our homes?
People want to be part of the solution to tackle climate change and every renovation counts. We have a wave of people going gas-free and disconnecting from fossil-fuel sources. Other renovators are starting to look into reclaimed materials and product choices. Repurposing an old staircase, a bathroom tub or an old bookshelf will add character and can help keep your budget in check.

The product everyone should include in their sustainable home design of 2023 is... Any products or materials with permeable and high-insulation performance! We have a rising problem with mould in Australia. Companies such as Life Panels and Durra Panel offer wall panel and insulation solutions that are made of compressed straw or wood fibre, which will keep the indoor air quality healthy while adding many other benefits.
evitat.com.au

LIGHTING



Glenn Stokes
Director, LA Lounge

Where do you see lighting design heading this year?
I think we will see an increase in the uptake of DALI (Digital Addressable Lighting Interface) as a preferred automation system. Previously mostly used in commercial building management, DALI is an internationally recognised dimming protocol and lighting-control system, with energy efficiency one of its major advantages. A DALI system can be controlled by either wall switches or an app on your smartphone, and it provides a high level of flexibility in creating lighting moods without changing wiring or calling in a technician.

What does this mean for how we will be using and living in our homes? From entertaining friends to working from home, homeowners require multifunctional spaces and the flexibility to be able to adjust the lighting in their living environments to the task at hand. Now, as designers, we are collectively beginning to appreciate the importance of lighting for health and wellbeing, and the shift has begun towards circadian lighting systems.

The product everyone should include in their home is...
Circadian light fittings. Economical to install and cost-effective to run, they represent the future of lighting. Also known as human-centric lighting, circadian lighting mimics the intensities and colour temperature changes of the sun throughout the day. The effects of these changes in light characteristics have been proven to enhance sleep, mood, and even increase productivity.
lalounge.com.au

PHOTOGRAPHY: KAYE (NICCI PORTRAIT), MATT ROUND (GLENN PORTRAIT), JC BUCK (STAIRWELL),
TIMBER BARN PROJECT (CHAIR), BALANCED EARTH

Nicci Green
Creative director, Articolo Lighting

Where do you see lighting design heading this year?
Lighting is essential in creating a mood and an ambience in a space. For both interior and exterior spaces, I am designing new pieces with soft layering of textures and confident volumes – timeless, detailed designs that reflect or combine only a handful of different finishes. We're continuing to explore a range of new materials and applications while attempting to understand the new technological capabilities that continue to evolve, along with the increasing value of sustainability.

How will we be using light in our homes? The home is a place to cocoon from the rigours and fast pace of the world around us. Lighting is intrinsic to creating a soulful space, a place to express yourself and your personality, where you can retreat and unwind. I love the notion of moving through a space and happening upon a beautiful light fixture that has a breathtaking shadow play of light – we refer to this as 'light sculpture' or 'light art'. It provides a moment to pause and exhale, and sets an expectation for the rest of the home.

The lighting product everyone should include in 2023 is...
A statement piece. We recently completed some superb custom lighting pieces for residences in New York, Aspen and California. They included dramatically supersized Trilogy pendants that span 14 metres through a multi-level staircase void, and an 80-ball multi-drop pendant with Fizi balls at staggered heights through a double-entrance void.
articololighting.com



OUTDOORS



Richard Unsworth
*Garden designer and owner,
Garden Life*

Where do you see outdoor design heading this year?

I'd like to think that outdoor design is responding appropriately to the climate crisis, with a more sensitive and responsible approach. We are creating gardens with a wilder, more natural aesthetic – and we're using more Indigenous plants, which help create habitat and sit effortlessly in the space. We're also drawn to landscape materials that are local to the area, such as Sydney sandstone or Victorian granite, and using recycled elements like common house bricks or recycled aggregate as a mulch.

What does this mean for how we will be using these spaces?

We will be living in garden environments that better connect us to nature – that will help us unwind from our need to feel constantly 'busy' and occupied. It's not necessarily about creating a strictly native garden, but blending different plant forms together like succulents, Mediterranean plants and natives. We need to embrace the natural!

The product everyone should have in their outdoor area is...

A striking terracotta vessel by Australian ceramicist David Suckling @objects_of_virtue. They're works of pure beauty and I think everyone needs at least one in their home! [gardenlife.com.au](https://www.gardenlife.com.au)



Brett Ward
*General manager, international
marketing, Brickworks*

Where do you see outdoor design heading this year?

It's going to be centred around relaxation, and creating an oasis that mimics the feeling of being on vacation in your own backyard. People are looking to invest in their outdoor spaces and create a space that is not only great for entertaining but a real destination space to relax and unwind from a busy schedule. This can be achieved by improving indoor/outdoor flow, adding a pool or a fire pit, or creating designated relaxation spaces through extra retaining walls and paving.

What does this mean for how we will be using these spaces?

In a culture where people often forget to take a minute to rest and recharge, creating an outdoor oasis that can be accessed every day is a great reminder to take a step back and reflect. Designing a space equipped with lush plants and thoughtful landscaping is a great prompt to step outside and immerse yourself in nature, which is something we could all do a lot more of.

The product everyone should include in their outdoor space is...

Pavers. They're such an important design tool when it comes to creating the perfect garden. They will help elevate your backyard and establish purpose within your desired space. A knockout option when it comes to brick pavers is the Nubrik Australis range by Austral, which has a subtle marble effect to mimic natural stone. Another great paver option is the Hamlet paver, also by Austral, which is prized for its unique size and ability to be used both indoors and outdoors.

[brickworks.com.au](https://www.brickworks.com.au)



PHOTOGRAPHY: ESTEBAN LA TESSA (BRETT PORTRAIT)