Rise & shine

From cornflakes and toast to tea and biscuits, a breakfast nook is a handy everyday hero that deserves some design love

FEATURE RORY ROBERTSON

TABLE MANNERS

Without a point of focus, a breakfast nook can fade into the background of a kitchen scheme – but not in this space by Studio MUKA. Centring it around an eye-catching Dirk van der Kooij table, partners Zabie Mustafa and Neda Kakhsaz made sure that this corner packed a punch. **Seating, Robert Mallet-Stevens. Pendant, restored vintage Sergio Mazza**

PHOTOS (TABLE MANNERS) AUSTIN LEIS; (IN SUSPENSE) HEATHER TALBERT **STYLING** (TABLE MANNERS) AUSTIN WHITTLE

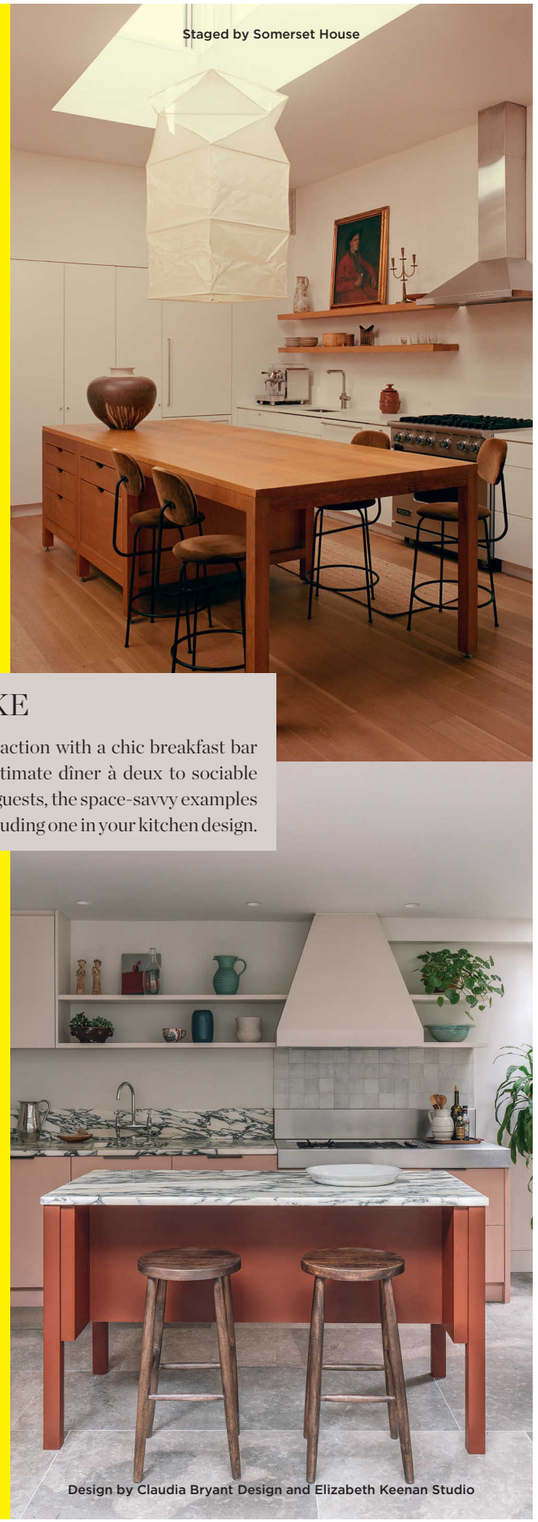
IN SUSPENSE

Including a pendant 'creates interest, warmth and human scale to bring the focus down to the table height,' says Jennie Bishop, founder of Bishop Studio. 'This pendant felt appropriate for the 1960s era home and is simple enough to not overwhelm the space. The kitchen's stone counters are a quartzite that reminds us of a Japanese watercolour, so the textured pendant complemented that perfectly.'

Pendant, Taiwan-Lantern. Covid in Dutch artwork by Erika Dufour



Design by YSG



Staged by Somerset House

PERCH AND PARTAKE

Make it easy to edge right up to the action with a chic breakfast bar – brilliant for everything from an intimate dîner à deux to sociable soirées that allow the cook to chat to guests, the space-savvy examples seen here make a brilliant case for including one in your kitchen design.

Design by Sucher Studios

Design by Claudia Bryant Design and Elizabeth Keenan Studio

PHOTOS (YSG STUDIO) ANSON SMART; (SOMERSET HOUSE) CLEMENT PASCAL; (CLAUDIA BRYANT DESIGN AND ELIZABETH KEENAN STUDIO) EMILY MARSHALL; (SUCHER STUDIOS) SARAH CROWLEY; (SPACE STATION) CHRISTOPHER HORWOOD

SPACE STATION

'Banquette-style breakfast nooks allow for a space-saving mix of chairs and built-in seating,' says Susie Atkinson, founder of Studio Atkinson, who included her own Craftmaker's chair alongside fixed seating here. 'A banquette hugging the wall is often a better use of space than rows of chairs on either side of a dining table.'

Craftmaker's chair, Studio Atkinson. Banquette in Tooth Check in Original on Beige, Bennison Fabrics





ADD AN ICON

If you like your breakfast sprinkled with pizzazz, add an iconic photographic print as a backdrop. Interior designer Jessica Schuster chose an image of Jackie Onassis in a ski mask and sunglasses, captured by Harry Benson on the slopes in 1968. As with anything that involves Jackie Onassis, we're taking notes.

Custom banquette by Ritz Upholstery in Houlès Vinyl. Chairs, Laura Gonzalez in Le Manach fabric. Table, Pluhowski Furniture

PHOTO ORI HARPAZ



BIJOU BISTRO

Small kitchens can still have space to sit – it just takes clever design planning. 'A breakfast table should take up little room while still being comfortable and easily accessible,' explains Rudy Faissal, one half of Milanese-based design firm Lit Studio. 'In this case, we made use of the niche between the units and inserted a bench, pairing it with a simple round table and striking red and black stools.'

Stools, Anna Castelli Ferrieri for Kartell

PHOTO MATTIA LOTTI **PRODUCTION AND STYLING** GIULIA TAGLIALATELA