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TOP Image courtesy of BSH Home Appliances. <u>bsh-group.com</u> ABOVE Image courtesy of Zerica. <u>zerica.com/en</u>

TOP RIGHT Image courtesy of Collaroy Kitchen Centre. <u>collaroykitchen.com.au</u> ABOVE RIGHT Image courtesy of Howards Storage World. <u>hsw.com.au</u> The materials used in kitchens is also evolving. "I'm seeing a shift away from glass splashbacks and marble benchtops," notes Michael. "Now we're moving towards porcelain and benches with thin profiles and matt-finish and woodgrain laminates. These are scratch-and fingerprint-resistant."

Michael adds that in kitchen panelling, a three-dimensional look is in demand. "For example, an MDF board that has padding or a design on it is used as a feature panel, not throughout the whole project," he says. Handles have also changed, with a greater variety on offer in different materials, finishes and tones. "There's black, brass, gold, leather

and a large range of coloured handles now being fitted in kitchens."

There are many new innovations that are making their mark. Some are high end such as electronic-opening drawers and doors, others are definitely more in demand even for middle-of-the-range kitchens, such as soft-close hinges and drawer runners.

CUTTING-EDGE KITCHENS

New innovations continue to channel kitchens into state-of-the-art spaces in the home. Helle Olsen from Collaroy Kitchen Centre says fridge drawers are a new concept. "They can be installed in the kitchen as additional