

Bold colour in overhead cupboards, as demonstrated by Laminex (POA), injects vibrancy into your kitchen



Left: Fabric pieces are an easy way to interchange colour, such as the Rhubarb 'Capri' apron (\$24.95)

Below: Mix it up with pretty bowls (\$34.95 for set of three from Wheel and Barrow)



COOKING IN COLOUR

With the kitchen commonly the central hub of a new home, colour choice is vital. By Annie Reid

Whether subtle or spectacular, adding colour to your kitchen is an exciting part of designing a new home.

Always consider the big picture first, says Lucy Sutherland, managing consultant of Colourways, a colour forecasting program at the Design Institute of Australia.

"We are favouring a very natural look at the moment, with a muted, monochromatic palette," she says. "But there has been a shift towards warm grey tones."

Classic greys featured strongly at the European design fairs this year, particularly in timber benchtops and tables, while warm and darker greys appeared in re-engineered stone benches.

Below and bottom right: Brightly hued items such as the KitchenAid Artisan Stand Mixer (\$795 from Matchbox) or vintage-style scales (\$49.95 from Wheel and Barrow) add spice



For bold colour, David Whittle, from interior designers Chameleon Concepts, says to save the currently popular red, orange and green hues for splashbacks and overhead cabinetry.

"Some day, you will want to sell the home, and that lime green may not be for everyone."

Whittle's hottest prediction is using colour with texture and pattern.

"There are exciting combinations of timber wood grains, veneers and metallic laminates which can be combined for a dramatic effect," he says.

For a more subtle colour impact, the trick is to get personal. Ladelle product manager, Tina Cavallo, says a clever idea is to add one or two accent colours via trims, stitching or motifs on napkins, tea towels and other decorative items.

Cavallo says 1950s style polka dots, a mish mash of bold, bright and punchy prints, and rustic-look table linen are on-trend ways to inject life.

Sutherland agrees. "We are also customising imagery on walls and appliances (such as fridges and splashbacks) — and whether it is a pattern, a photograph or a texture — these are adding a personal touch to our kitchens," she says.

You can also zest up the space with bold utensils. ■

