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NOTHING DULL ABOUT GREY



Layering, grey hues, timber veneers, gloss finishes, coloured cabinetry and engineered stone benchtops are among the trends for kitchen renovations this year.

The kitchen continues to be a focus for home renovators with Australians expected to spend \$7.6 billion on kitchen refits and installations in 2011.

The Laminex Group design centre manager Lorraine Brigdale keeps ahead of the latest trends and says there have been some excellent developments with products and surfaces from Formica, Laminex and Essastone in the past 12 months.

"Home owners are increasingly exploring how decors can be integrated across an array of vertical and horizontal surfaces including benchtops, cabinetry, doors and panels," she says.

The HIA (Housing Industry Association) report says there has been a reduction in stainless steel

benchtops and a rise in engineered stone benchtops.

"That will continue this year and is largely due to the more practical nature of engineered stone and the variety of fashionable designs," she says.

Naturalistic décors and gloss finishes are expected to be in demand and there is an increase in the selection of Formica, GlossPlus and Laminex

DiamondGloss woodgrains, stone pattern and solids in a gloss finish for benchtops.

The rich, deep lustre of Laminex CrystalGloss now extends to cabinetry finishes such as Laminex ColourTech painted doors which add a splash of colour to the kitchen.

Lorraine says home owners will be spoilt for choice with the wide range of colours and finishes from the Laminex colour palette. She predicts layering and grey tones will be big.

"Layering, similar to the layering we see in

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AM BUILDING



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women's fashion, will be seen with colours, tones and surface textures layered to create new and different interior landscapes in the kitchen," she says.

"In 2010 grey had the strongest influence on design and this will continue to rise as people explore the versatility and hidden depths of grey tones."

The Laminex colour palette has an array of grey hues such as Hakata and Chalky Teak, while Formica offers fashionable greys including Ash, Hotham Oak and Cast Concrete.

Lorraine says timber veneers are also set to rise again, stronger and smarter than before.

"It's a classic surface making a comeback... we're really excited about the timber veneers."

www.formica.com.au

www.laminex.com.au

www.essastone.com.au

