

Laminex®

# Design Guide

How to elevate your space using colour, texture and curves.



With the extraordinary spectrum of decors in the Laminex Colour Collection, and the incredible design flexibility of the material itself, Laminex offers endless opportunities for transforming your home.

This Design Guide provides on-trend ideas for working with laminate and decorated board, with a focus on contemporary colour and texture, and sculptural curves. It shows how Laminex laminate can play a key role in realising your dream home, as part of a broader material palette or as a hero in its own right.



Shelves feature Laminex Danish Walnut. Design by YSG Studio.  
Photography by Derek Swalwell.

Laminex laminates are well-known for their hard-wearing durability and cost-effectiveness, but the beautiful designs on these pages showcase why they've become an essential part of the creative toolkit for so many of Australia's leading designers. Featured projects include the beautifully muted tones and soft curves of the Expansive Kitchen and the saturated colour

and texture of the Studio Kitchen, by award-winning Melbourne architects Kennedy Nolan; the Fantales home by cutting-edge Sydney interior design studio YSG, with its warm, immersive kitchen and texturally rich living and studio space; and a host of other spaces from around Australia, for you to explore and maybe even emulate in your own home.

# Colour Play

Colour has made a huge comeback in contemporary interior design, for good reason. You can use it to create all kinds of effects, from bold impact to calming serenity, and even hidden surprises inside cupboards and drawers.



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- 1 Laminex Burnt Ochre overhead cabinetry with Laminex Fresh Spring interior, Moroccan Clay benchtop and splashback. Designed by YSG Studio. Photography by Derek Swalwell.
- 2 Laminex French Navy benchtop, Laminex Pillarbox drawer interior, Laminex AbsoluteMatte Green Slate Draw front. Designed by Kennedy Nolan. Photography by Derek Swalwell.

## 01 — Create unexpected highlights in cabinetry.

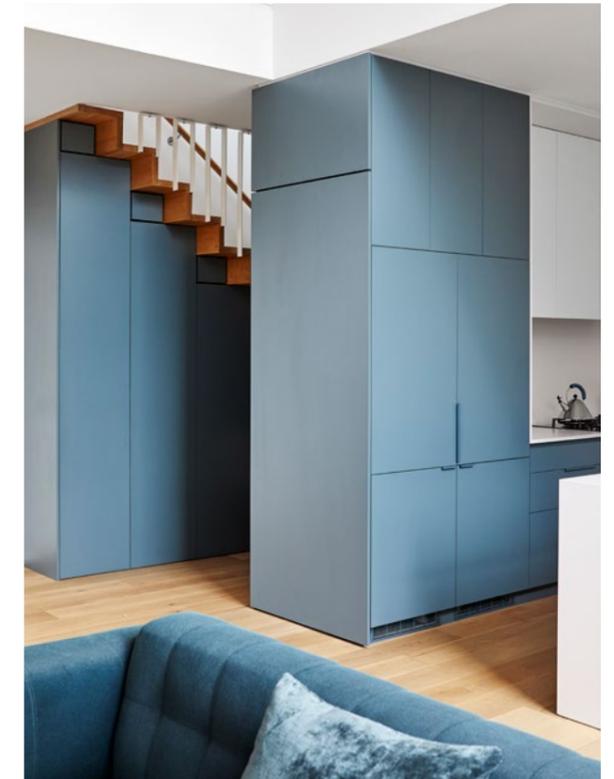
Clever use of colour can elevate the everyday, and nowhere more so than on the inside surfaces of cupboards and drawers. Fabricate these in a different colour to doors, drawer fronts and side panels, and a task as mundane as getting a knife and fork will bring surprise and delight!

The range of products offered by Laminex makes this very achievable for your cabinetmaker or kitchen designer, and the options presented by the Laminex Colour Collection are endless. Consider a flash of brilliant red, a refreshing wash of pale blue or even a textural woodgrain decor for the feel of bespoke furniture.

## Colour Play



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- 3 Laminex AbsoluteMatte Green Slate joinery and Pure Mineralstone II benchtop.
- 4 Laminex Winter Sky and Laminex AbsoluteMatte Polar White joinery. Designed by Sgourakis Architects. Photography by Dave Kulesza. Styling by Bea + Co

## 02 — Make an impact with blocked colour.

If you've found a particular hue that you really love, why not celebrate it? Use contrasting blocks of colour – say, tower and under-bench cabinetry in strong blue against a kitchen in white – for a graphical look. Or perhaps a tonal combination, such as two organic greens, to create an enveloping mood. And match your minimal colour palette to simple detailing for a clean, modern, confident interior.



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### 03 — Bring calm with a dreamy tonal palette.

Colour has a powerful effect on mood, and a dreamy palette of warm neutrals will make your kitchen or bathroom feel like a calming sanctuary. Avoid strong contrast by choosing similarly hued surface materials, including solid-colour and woodgrain laminate for cabinetry and benchtops, and tiles for flooring and splashbacks, to create subtle shifts in tone and texture.

- 5 Laminex Raw Cotton cabinetry. Penthouse M by CJH Studio. Photography by Cathy Schusler.
- 6 Laminex Paper Bark scalloped cupboard front, Laminex Whitewashed Oak joinery and cabinetry interior. Designed by Kennedy Nolan. Photography by Derek Swalwell.



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- 7 Laminex Hushed Pine and Manhattan Concrete surfaces.
- 8 Laminex Burnt Ochre and Porcelain Blush wall panelling and cabinetry.



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### 04 — Embrace bold colours from the natural world.

In uncertain and challenging times, maintaining a connection to nature helps us feel grounded. And of course, the colours of Australia's natural landscapes are particularly beautiful, so why wouldn't you want to bring them into your home! Rich, luscious greens evocative of rainforests and eucalypts are inherently calming and make a vibrant counterpoint to timbers

and concrete surfaces, while the warm, earthy tones of ochre and desert sands can be layered together to create interior spaces that are comforting, reassuring, even cocoon-like. These colours and more can be found in the Laminex Colour Collection, its latest update wholly inspired by the natural world.

# Textural Contrast

Textured surfaces add visual interest, authenticity and tactility. But when you place different textures next to each other – matte and gloss, tile and stone, woodgrain and woodgrain – the contrast can bring a whole new energy to a space.

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Laminex Danish Walnut and Laminex Milkwood joinery. Designed by YSG Studio. Photography by Derek Swalwell.

## Textural Contrast



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- 2 Laminex Paper Bark wall lining, Laminex French Cream splashback and benchtop. Designed by Kennedy Nolan. Photography by Derek Swalwell.
- 3 Laminex Kalamata and Laminex Pillarbox coffee table top. Designed by YSG Studio. Photography by Derek Swalwell.
- 4 Laminex Pillarbox custom post-formed display shelf, Laminex Sublime Teak panels. Designed by Kennedy Nolan. Photography by Derek Swalwell.



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### 01 — Layering textures to enhance design.

Pairing surfaces with different textural qualities can create compelling visual and tactile effects. Think satin-smooth solid-colour laminate alongside a natural material like cork wall tiles, or against the undulating imperfection of handmade tiles on a splashback. Or perhaps two woodgrain laminates, laid at different angles for a textural character that's at once organic and designed.



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## Textural Contrast

- 5 Laminex Black AbsoluteMatte Kitchenette splashback, shelving, benchtop and cabinetry. Fives Acres Accommodation. Designed by Belle Bright Project. Photography by Marnie Hawson.
- 6 Laminex AbsoluteMatte French Navy Tower Cabinetry and Laminex Nero Grafite ledge. Designed by Bree Leech. Photography by Lisa Cohen.



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### 02 — Working with super-matte surfaces.

The rise of super-matte surfaces was initially driven by the popularity of cool matte black finishes. But the addition of beautiful rich neutrals to the Laminex AbsoluteMatte range – including warm greys, deep blues and organic greens – has opened up new opportunities for sophisticated contemporary design.

The light-absorbing quality of these materials gives them a natural-feeling visual softness that makes them a perfect match for low-gloss materials like timber, tile, brick and natural stone. And of course, the other vital aspect of texture, particularly on interior elements like benchtops, drawers and doors, is how it feels to the touch. AbsoluteMatte is silky smooth and luxurious.



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Laminex French Navy splashback, rangehood and benchtop, Laminex AbsoluteMatte Green Slate tower and under bench cabinetry. Designed by Kennedy Nolan. Photography by Derek Swalwell.

# Sculptural Curves

Laminex laminate's innate design flexibility means that it can be formed into eye-catching organic shapes that would be very expensive, or simply not possible to achieve, with other materials.



1 Wall lining, cabinetry and island bench in Laminex Paperbark, splashback, rangehood and island benchtop in Laminex French Cream. Designed by Kennedy Nolan. Photography by Derek Swalwell.

## Sculptural Curves



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### 01 — Bullnose handles, shelves and detailing using post-forming.

Fabricators can use heat to post-form high-pressure laminate (HPL) into curves with radiuses as tight as 5mm, creating bespoke interior design details like thick bullnose-profile shelves and cabinetry handles. They'll announce your home as anything but "stock standard", and their larger laminate surfaces allow colour to play a more prominent role too.

For more information on post-forming visit [laminex.com.au](https://laminex.com.au) or [click here](#).



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2 Laminex Enamel has been post-formed as cabinetry handles for the tower cabinetry – paired with Laminex Sublime Teak. The custom table has been cold-formed using Laminex Pillarbox and Laminex Enamel. Designed by Kennedy Nolan. Photography by Derek Swalwell.

3 Laminex Moroccan Clay benchtop, Laminex Burnt Ochre cabinetry and post-formed handles. Each door-pull was crafted from MDF, which was shaped into its curved profile on a spindle moulder, sanded back and then laminated in a flow-through post-former. Designed by YSG Studio. Photography by Derek Swalwell.

4 Laminex Pillarbox post-formed shelf. Designed by YSG Studio. Photography by Derek Swalwell.

## Sculptural Curves

- 6 Laminex Paper Bark scalloped cupboard front, Laminex Whitewashed Oak joinery and cabinetry interior. Designed by Kennedy Nolan. Photography by Derek Swalwell.
- 7 Laminex Peruvian Clay joinery. Design by Adriana Hanna. Photography by Sean Fennessy.



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### 02 — Making patterns and shapes.

Fabricators can also cut Laminex laminate into two-dimensional shapes, adding decorative design features to cabinetry. Doors made from decorated board (also known as LPM) cut with a scalloped bottom edge make a compelling shadow pattern on lower cabinetry surfaces, while also negating the need for handles or door pulls. Alternatively, HPL can be cut into similarly curved shapes and inlaid over standard cupboard doors, with shadow-lines again creating a scalloped pattern.

A third product, compact laminate, can be used to deliver a similar effect, with routing exposing the panels' black core beneath the coloured surface. The scalloped doors seen in image 6 were made from LPM (also known as decorated board), by cutting the panels to the desired non-rectangular shape, and then edged with matching HPL.

For more information on creating shapes with laminate visit [laminex.com.au](https://laminex.com.au) or [click here](#).

## Sculptural Curves



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- 8 Island bench in Laminex French Cream and Laminex Paper Bark. Designed by Kennedy Nolan. Photography by Derek Swalwell.
- 9 Laminex Raw Cotton cabinetry. Penthouse M by CJH Studio. Photography by Cathy Schusler.
- 10 Laminex French Navy splashback, rangehood and benchtop, Laminex AbsoluteMatte Green Slate under bench cabinetry. Designed by Kennedy Nolan. Photography by Derek Swalwell.

### 03 — Curved cupboard doors, rangehoods and kitchen islands with cold-forming.

Cold-forming is a laminate fabrication process that produces curves with a minimum radius of 150mm. It's an achievable option for bringing sculptural beauty and organic softness to interior fixtures, creating everything from voluptuous island bench bases and sweeping rangehood covers to cupboard doors that wrap around corners and surfaces that flow seamlessly from splashback to benchtop.

The curved drum-shaped legs in the base of the island bench seen in image 8 were cold-formed using Laminex laminate, as were the cupboard door in image 9 and rangehood in image 10.

For more information on cold-forming visit [laminex.com.au](https://laminex.com.au) or [click here](#).

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