

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Small on space, but big on function**

*Mercia de Jager from leading kitchen appliance brand, Miele, offers some tips and advice on how to best choose and incorporate appliances into a smaller kitchen for maximum effect.*

*06 December 2013, Johannesburg:* Whether you live in a small studio apartment, or you reside in a compact townhouse – there are a lot of homeowners out there that find themselves short of kitchen space. Even if your existing living space does not allow for the spacious kitchen of your dreams, preparing meals in a small kitchen does not necessarily have to be a nightmare.

So says Mercia de Jager from international leading appliance manufacturer, Miele, who adds: “A productive kitchen is a happy kitchen, and even if you have a very small kitchen, there is still a big need for functional appliances. The beauty is that with a few clever considerations – you can make the most of the kitchen space you have, while not forgoing any conveniences afforded by a wide selection of kitchen appliances.” She offers the following pointers for when you are shopping for appliances for your small kitchen:

#### **An integrated approach**

The aim for any small kitchen design is to achieve a seamless and fully integrated look. Says Mercia: “An already small kitchen space can seem even smaller with kitchen appliances taking up space or jutting out past countertops. By fully integrating your appliances into your cabinetry, you can easily achieve a clean and sleek look that will help to aesthetically maximise the space in your kitchen.”

She says that when it comes to integrated appliances, it is essential that all the appliances you choose boast a similar, harmonious design: “The design of Miele’s newly launched Generation 6000 range of built-in appliances for example, has already been at the receiving end of numerous international design awards. One reason for all these accolades is the way products from widely differing product groups, harmonise perfectly with respect to form and function, appearing to come from the same mould. As a result, vertical or horizontal multi installations are routine for Miele appliances.”

#### **Go streamlined**

Mercia notes that today, there is an emphasis on simple lines and clear-cut sleek looks, which is especially important for compact spaces: “Within this modern chic and smooth form is a desire for greater ease of use and improved functionality. As a result, the smoothly beautiful appliances in your home practically beg to be touched. Yet they aren't simply pretty to look at. Gazing at each sleek line and polished curve, you will find that the designers have thought of every practical need. Nothing in the kitchen appliance world is truly just for

show. Each decorative addition can put in a full performance for entertaining others or creating a quality meal.”

She says that it is important to eliminate visual clutter by selecting appliances that boast a streamlined appearance: “A hob with a ceran cooking surface, such as one of Miele’s many induction hobs for example, boasts a sleek, flat surface that will blend seamlessly with the kitchen countertop, creating a visually simple and uncluttered look. Try and avoid oversized appliances or appliances with bulky finishes – the sleeker, the better. Lightweight, neat and clean-lined appliance design has the ability to make a space seem slick, well finished and larger than it is by not consuming any unnecessary visual space.”

### **Combination realisation**

If your kitchen space is really compact, Mercia says that it might be an option to choose a combination appliance: “In smaller kitchen spaces, appliances need to work that much harder to warrant the space that they require. As a result, combination appliances are a great alternative – offering the functionality of two appliances, but only requiring space for one.”

Microwave combination ovens, such as Miele’s H6400BM for example, offers all the practicalities of a microwave oven, together with those of a convection oven. Alternatively, you could opt for one of Miele’s steam combination ovens, which boast the healthy and efficient advantages of steaming your food, along with the grilling, browning and baking benefits that a normal convection oven provides. For your laundry needs, why not choose Miele’s WT2780 washer dryer that washes your laundry and can tumble dry it afterwards as well?

### **A pause for reflection**

A quick and easy way of truly opening your kitchen up is by incorporating reflective surfaces and finishes. This applies to the materials used to build your kitchen, as well as the appliances in it. Says Mercia: “Stainless steel has reigned supreme for many years in the world of kitchen appliances, and it is easy to understand why – as a material, it is strong, harmonious with a whole spectrum of colour palettes, and it provides a reflective metallic sheen that brings light into the space and makes the space seem larger than it is.”

She notes that the common drawback of stainless steel is the fact that it is often difficult to keep clean and free of fingerprints. As such, she says that when choosing a stainless steel appliance, it is important to choose one with a finish that makes cleaning a synch: “Miele’s CleanSteel finish for example, ensures that your stainless steel appliance will be very simple to maintain and clean, and it permanently negates the formation of fingerprints on the surfaces of your appliance.”

White also has the ability to really open up small spaces by reflecting maximum light, explains Mercia: “Using white throughout your kitchen area can really create the illusion of space. It can also unify a look, as all visual boundaries have

been removed. Miele's Generation 6000 range of appliances are available in Obsidian Black, Havana Brown, CleanSteel, and of course crisp, clean and reflective BrilliantWhite – which is an ideal choice for small kitchen spaces.”

Glass is another element that should be abundantly featured in appliances for small kitchens, says Mercia: “Glass is transparent and as such, it creates the illusion of openness, airiness and added space. Miele's Generation 6000 PureLine design line for example, harmonises with modern and contemporary living styles, a modern kitchen and living environment being characterised by a puristic and linear design, which induces a sense of transparency and is often encountered in interior architecture in combination with large glass surfaces.”

### **From the hood**

When it comes to cookerhood selection for your small kitchen, Mercia says that an integrated extractor is a great option: “Integrated cooker hoods, such as Miele's DA3460 or DA3490 extractor fans for example, are built into a chimneybreast or under a row of kitchen cabinets. They are specifically designed to fit into enclosed spaces and as a result are finished on the underside only – the only part that is visible once installed. They are great space-savers, as they allow you to use the space above the hob for added kitchen storage.”

In-ceiling extractors are another innovative option for small spaces. Mercia elucidates: “Miele's DA 2900 ceiling extractor for example, is the ideal solution for small, open-plan kitchens – it sets the benchmark in terms of discreet design, as well as in terms of energy efficiency.”

If you have your heart set on a full extractor however, then choose one with a glass finish, advises Mercia: “Cooker hoods with glass trim, such as Miele's DA289-4 extractor for example, create the illusion of added spaciousness and airiness and therefore, they are a good choice for kitchens where space is at a premium.” She also notes that the cooker hood you choose should have built-in lighting: “Any top-end extractor should boast halogen and now, even with LED downlights for practical task lighting. Some models, also feature different coloured lighting that can be used as ambient lighting in the kitchen.”

### **Proportion proposition**

Lastly, Mercia says that you should choose appliances that are in proportion to the size of your kitchen space: “It is no use squeezing in an extra large oven into a really small space for example, as it will visually overwhelm the space. Rather choose smaller appliances that are in proportion to the space in which they will be featured. In this regard, Miele's range of CombiSet appliances are a really good option. The range comprises a variety of different compact countertop appliances that allow you to really maximise any available space with a few appliances in the same space that you would fit a conventional hob for example.”

Says Mercia: “Now cooking fans can choose from a wide range of Miele CombiSet modules to make up their own personal cooking centre akin to any that might be

found in a professional kitchen, and choose various items to fit the specific space that is available to them.” The various items in this range include the salamander, induction wok, barbecue grill, induction and gas hobs.

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