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INTERIORS

Come, LET`S DINE

Trisha Harinath serves up the ultimate dine-in experience



Use a table with interesting legs to make a statement, Earth Interior Architects.

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Alicante table and Adelaide chair, BoConcept.

Dining rooms have become so much more than just a place where you gather to eat one meal a day. Finally, we are able to gather again as friends and family to enjoy a long afternoon of sharing food, stories and laughter. And what better place to do this than at the dining room table?

For this reason, the need to create visually pleasing and comfortable dining rooms has never been more important.

CREATING THE IDEAL SPACE

There is more than just the table and chairs to consider when creating the ideal dining area. "There must be a balance between function (checking it seats the right number of people for your needs and has the right layout so everyone can manoeuvre around all the furniture) and form (ensuring the room will wow your guests and get the ambience spot-on for the vibe you want to create, which matches the rest of your home and style)," says Earth Interior Architects' creative director, Candice Brophy.

She also recommends that before you start selecting the various elements for the space, you should ask yourself what the space's main purpose will be. "Essentially, you need to decide who, how, and when the space will be used and let those decisions dictate the furniture, colour scheme and layout you choose."

LET YOUR TABLE TAKE CENTRE STAGE

"Dining tables are more than just a place to eat, they function as the communal centrepiece of your home," says Cheryl Du Preez, visual merchandising co-ordinator for Cielo. She points out two major trends for dining tables in 2023. "One trend is statement legs – people are now looking for tables with unique leg designs, and we are seeing everything from curved legs and metal bases to pedestal legs. If you are looking for a table that will make a statement, look for one with interesting legs. >



Ann Demeulemeester silver-plated set, Babylonstoren.





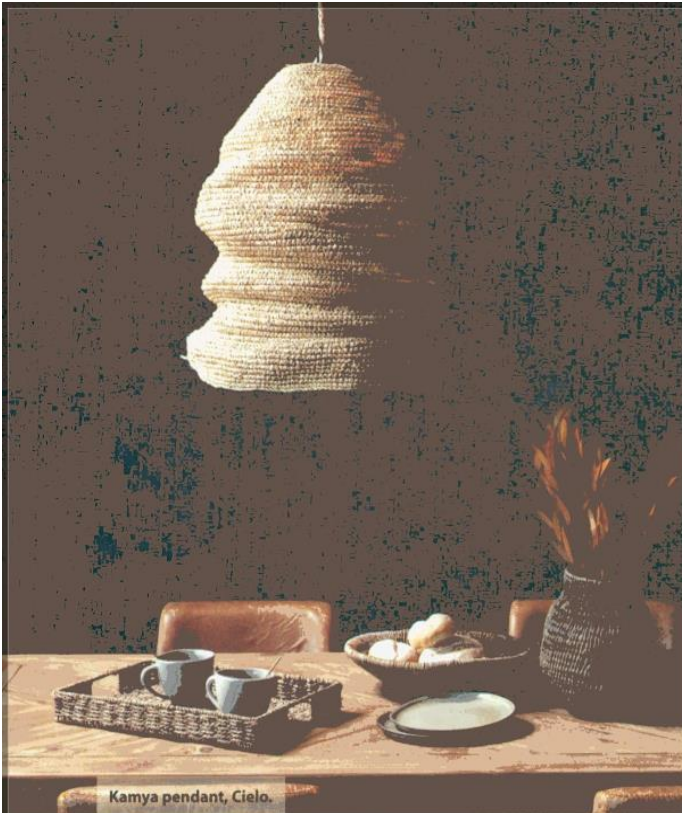
Madrid table and Hamilton chair, BoConcept.

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Kamya pendant, Cielo.



Emma dining chair (fusion stone), Cielo.

“Dining tables are more than just a place to eat, they function as the communal centrepiece of your home.” – Cheryl Du Preez

“The other trend to keep an eye out for is mixed materials. These days, it is all about mixing and matching different materials to create an eclectic look. We are seeing tables made from a mix of wood, metal and even glass. So, don’t be afraid to mix and match until you find the perfect combination.”

To help you select the correct table, Kim Williams, owner of Kim Williams Design, advises considering the number of people you wish to accommodate, the size of the room, and keeping in mind to leave at least one metre around the entire table for comfortable seating and movement. “It is important to test comfort at the table with a few options to see what works best. Buy something because it ticks all the boxes, not just because it looks good or is a good price, otherwise it might become a white elephant,” recommends Williams.

TAKE A SEAT

When shopping around for seating for your dining area, comfort and practicality should be top of mind. “Comfort is, by far, the most important trend and consideration in dining chairs. Consumers are looking for a balance between aesthetic, design and function, and a dining chair needs to complement the dining table for a comprehensive look,” says Kgomotso Letebele, a design consultant at BoConcept.

On what to look out for, Letebele says: “Overall expressions are soft and organic. Natural materials such as wood are becoming increasingly more popular with upholstery in materials produced with respect for the environment, such as wood or recycled polyester.” Keep an eye out for fabrics made from 100% recyclable, biodegradable wool and free from harmful chemicals. >

Choose the appropriate materials for your outdoor set, Kim Williams Design.



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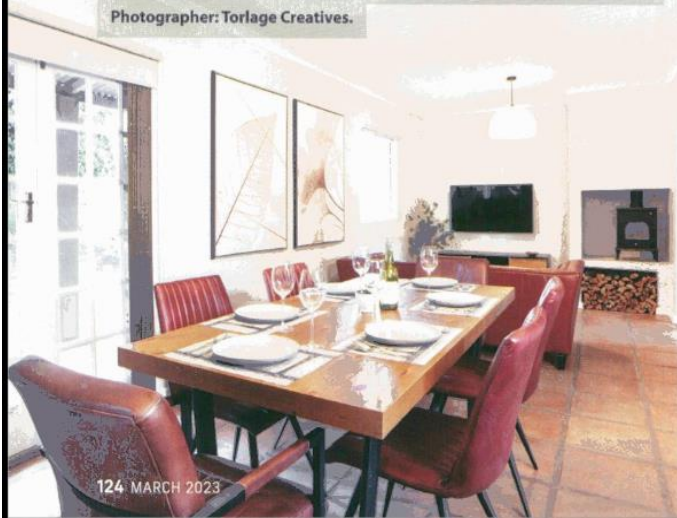


Pendant lighting adds glamour to the space, Earth Interior Architects.

"This trend is gaining traction because these fabrics now have achieved ultra-softness, and superior strength, suited for a dining chair," explains Letebele. To get the perfect

chairs, Michelle Page, an interior designer at Kraaines Interior & Garden Centre, says to consider durability and opt for something that is not only trending, but also timeless so that it can last for about five to ten years. "Also steer clear of purchasing these expensive pieces online as pictures can sometimes not truly represent the colour, look and quality of an item."

Leave space to move around the table, Kraaines Interior & Garden Centre, Photographer: Torlage Creatives.



BRING IT ALL TOGETHER

To complete the look and feel of the dining room, some other elements to consider include rugs, lighting, colour, wallpaper, side servers, and smaller décor pieces. "Rugs are a lovely way to ground a dining table and add in some texture,

TOP TIPS

"For an industrial look, use light wood and metal dining tables with straight edges and clean lines. For a Scandinavian aesthetic, opt for sleek and minimalist pieces with slim table tops and angled legs."

– Michelle Page, Kraaines Interior & Garden Centre





Spoon rest (bone),
 Babylonstoren.

Snowflake linen napkin
 (green), Babylonstoren.

Scallop plate (bone),
 Babylonstoren.

Blue Ming tea cup and
 saucer, Babylonstoren.

Linen napkins,
 Babylonstoren.

pattern and colour. The key is to get the right size so that your dining table and all the chairs sit comfortably on top, but there is still some floor to be seen," says Brophy.

Letebele also stresses the importance of good lighting and says that a pendant light is usually preferable, suspended from the ceiling to provide ambience while making a statement. "Pendants must complement your dining set-up, but this does not mean it has to be boring. A colourful pendant can add a bit of fun to your space, while chandeliers and rich metallics, such as chrome or brass, will give it sophistication and a touch of luxury."

"Fabrics are a quick way to bring the space on-trend. Using wallpaper and colour in the space will do the same," says Williams. She adds that using beautiful tablecloths and linen creates a wonderful atmosphere and can be themed based on the time of the year or occasion.

"Candles and plants also add to the ambience and atmosphere, which contributes to our overall experience of the space." 🌱

With thanks to Babylonstoren, BoConcept, Cielo, Earth Interior Architects, Kim Williams Design, Kraaines Interior & Garden Centre, and Yuppiechef

WHAT'S ON YOUR TABLE

Two industry leaders share specific trends in cutlery and crockery that you can look forward to following.

Marisa Beyers, media manager at Babylonstoren:

"Nature-inspired colours such as green and white remain extremely popular. We are also seeing more organic shapes in crockery in natural colours like bone – quality pieces that have been made by hand. Then there is a bit of nostalgia for things like blue-and-white patterns on crockery, classic silver cutlery, and pure linen napkins and tablecloths."

Annie Brown, marketing production at Yuppiechef: "We are very into glazes at the moment and, most specifically, we are loving our new dinnerware that comes in a number of beautiful glazes. They add a pop of colour and character to any table and are perfect for everyday and occasional use."

