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# Cook up some tasty inspiration

This year's kitchen design trends offer something that will cater for every taste

The kitchen is often considered the heart of the home, and a renovation will most likely be on the cards for many homeowners this year.

Freedom Kitchens' Susan Hasler shares her tips on the top trends for 2018, including the continuation of the two-tone cabinetry look.

"From TV show kitchens like those showcased on *The Block*, to everyday homes, Australian homeowners loved the look of crisp white contrasted by black or grey for a contemporary edge," she said.

"This colour-blocking looks set to continue, but we're likely to see some bravery beyond black and white, with various shades of grey being the new neutral.

"Also expect to see an astute use of both smooth matt and

textured surfaces."

Earthy tones and textures are also expected to be popular, with cool concrete, warm timbers, and natural stone right on trend.

"With the influence of open-plan design bringing the palette of surrounding rooms into the kitchen, the trend is to further evolve these areas into truly congruent spaces," Ms Hasler said.

Industrial-inspired benchtops are also expected to remain hot-ticket items, and metallics are expected to grow in popularity.

Gold, copper and brass sinks, taps and handles have been popular in recent times, according to Freedom Kitchens.

But the latest version of this trend will see the use of mixed metallics in kitchen palettes – think champagne-toned metallic cabinets with stainless steel tapware, or brass taps and stainless steel appliances.

And for those on a budget, laminate surfaces can provide the luxe look for less.

