

Top 10 new kitchen items

Function meets form at the Toronto Gift Fair as our columnist reveals his personal favourites



JAMIE ALEXANDER
**DESIGNER
DETAILS**

Have you ever fallen in love with the look of something only to discover, once home, that it didn't actually work?

Or had the opposite experience with a highly functional yet visually unappealing product? It happens more often than you might think.

However, believe it or not, well-designed housewares are out there. Marrying form and function to bring to life aesthetically pleasing and smart, well thought out products that enhance our lives is possible.

In fact, I had the pleasure of discovering many new ones at the Canadian Gift Association's Toronto Gift Fair recently where I was co-Ambassador with my business partner, Glen Peloso.

Suffice it to say, functional form was everywhere — from fashion, furniture and accessories to lighting, outdoor living, entertaining and even the kitchen. Here are the top 10 new housewares that caught our eye:

1. Final Touch Conundrum Aerator Decanter (\$49.99). Decant on demand with Final Touch's Conundrum Aerator Decanter designed to enhance the aroma and flavour while providing excellent aeration and oxygenation. The stainless steel base caught our eye, too!



2. Architec Gripper Bare Board (\$39.99). Architec's Gripper Bare Board brings to life the warm grain of Acacia wood in one-of-a-kind live edge, food safe cutting boards (double beautifully as charcuterie or cheese boards) with the functionality of a reliable non-slip underside.



3. All-Clad Polished Stainless Steel Electric Griddle (\$360). Hand-polished and mirror-finished, All-Clad's polished stainless steel electric griddle delivers professional performance and it's dishwasher safe, to boot. The smart drainage and grease catcher sealed the deal for us!



4. Kattinatt Swedish Dish Cloths (\$6.50). Made of wood fibers and recycled cotton, Kattinatt Swed-

ish Dish Cloths are environmentally friendly, reusable and long lasting, and easily washable in the laundry or top rack of they dishwasher. The best part? They're biodegradable. Once worn out, simply place in the compost bin.



5. KitchenAid Copper Clad 10-Piece Set (\$1,299.99). KitchenAid's Tri-Ply Copper Clad Cookware Set combines the superior conductivity of copper with the heating efficiency of aluminum plus the durability of stainless steel. Even better, each piece is compatible with all cook tops, including induction.



6. LSA Ash Bowl (\$169.99). Multi-function at its finest! This elegant two-piece bowl made of ash wood and polish glass from LSA is timeless, convenient and dual-purposed. Use together or separately.



7. Trudeau Bohmia Oxygenating Wine Glasses (\$22.99/set of two). The embossed Czech Republic chrySTALLINE glass blades of Trudeau's Bohemia Oxygenating Wine Glasses aerate and oxygenate wine to release aromas so there's no wait — and no need for decanting.



8. Swissmar Nuance Penguin Pitcher (\$150). The design of Swissmar's Nuance Penguin Pitcher with its removable ice filter ensures that ice cubes (or slices of lemon) are retained when pouring and keeps water ice cold at the same time. Of course, its cool blue metallic hue is pretty enough to guarantee its own place at the dinner table.



9. Joseph Joseph Totem Kitchen Bin (\$329). Keep everything in its place with Joseph Joseph's Totem Kitchen Bin. Consider it a smart and stylish waste separation and recycling unit (there's even a chic little compost bin!). And it's definitely attractive enough to keep right out in the open.



10. Paderno EcoGreen Bakeware (Pan: \$17.99; Insert: \$29.99). This durable carbon steel and non-stick ceramic loaf pan and insert from Paderno Eco Green Bakeware has us craving meatloaf! Convenient silicone grip pads make this a must-

have for any kitchen. Bonus: It's dishwasher safe.

— *Jamie Alexander is an award-winning designer and co-owner of Peloso Alexander Interiors, a design firm dedicated to bringing beautiful spaces to life. Visit www.pelosoalexander.com.*

