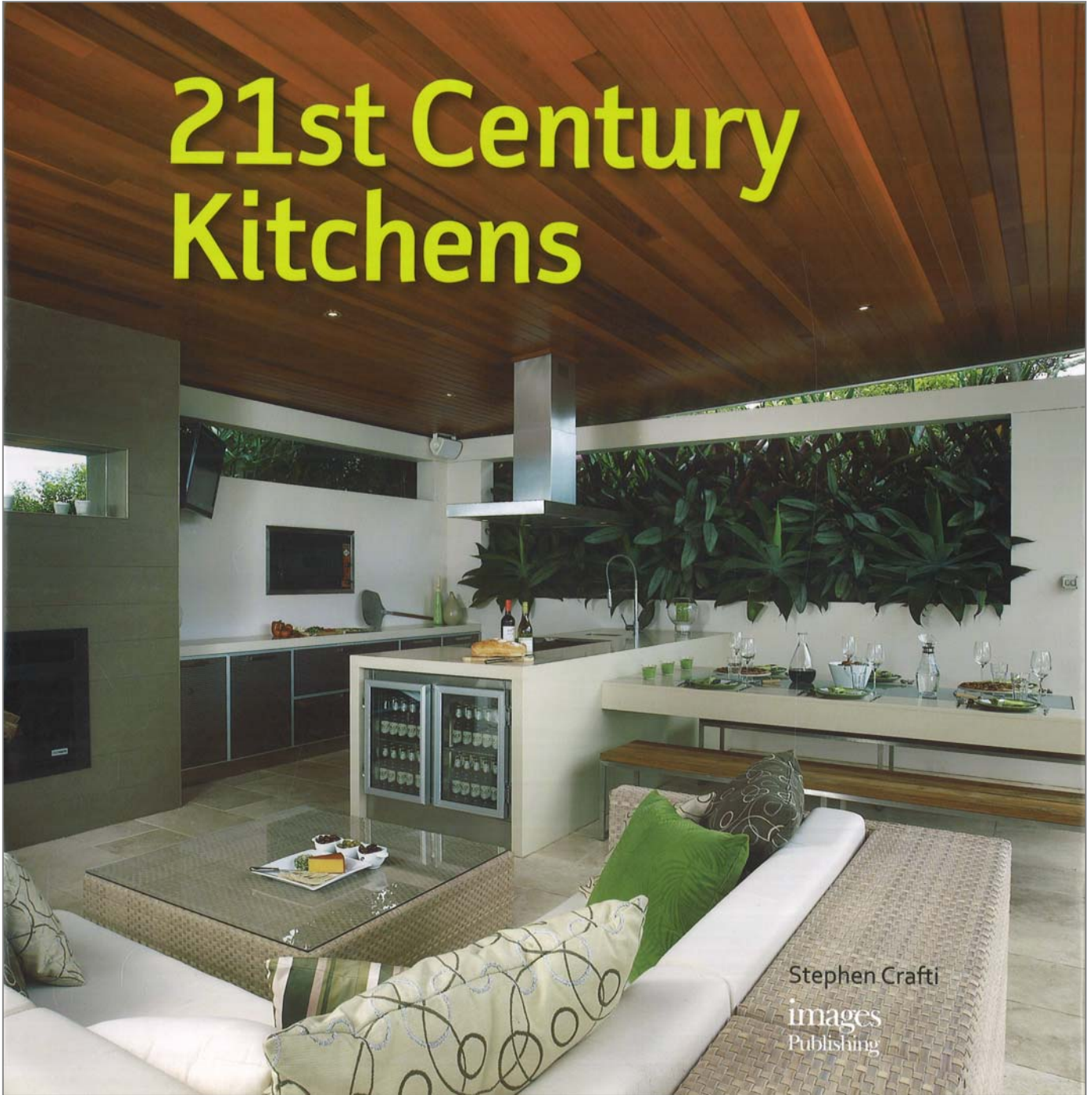
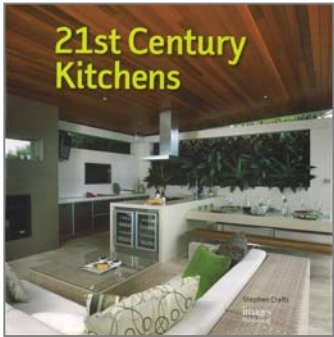


21st Century Kitchens



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THIS DEVELOPMENT BY STOCKLAND comprises a number of apartments, penthouses, villa units and detached homes. RLD worked closely with Cox Rayner Architects in creating streamlined contemporary interiors for this high-end development. "We wanted to give people a number of options. Aesthetics, as well as function, drove each design," says Andrea D'Cruz, co-director of RLD.

The kitchens in each dwelling are slightly different, both in layout and materials used. This kitchen, located in one of the detached homes, features limestone flooring throughout and open-plan living areas. The kitchen is sleek and minimal and includes an island bench finished in reconstituted stone. At one end of the island bench is a sink, with generous storage below. And at the other end, the benchtop extends to form a table for informal dining. Rather than clutter the space with heavy legs, the table features folded stainless steel. "The feeling is light and transparent," says D'Cruz.

The kitchen also features a bank of polyurethane cupboards in a taupe colour, together with polyurethane white drawers that extend to form a credenza in the living areas. To help define the kitchen, as well as concealing the air-conditioning unit, a bulkhead was placed over the kitchen area. Lit from above by fluorescent lighting, the ceiling appears to float.

A pantry is located at the furthest end of the kitchen providing storage for food as well as concealing household appliances. "When you're designing open-plan kitchens, you don't want to see clutter from the living areas," says D'Cruz, who also included a butler's pantry (concealed kitchenettes) in many of the homes on this development. Whether or not there is a butler's pantry, each kitchen design by D'Cruz follows the triangular principle – the food-storage, preparation and cooking areas are arranged in this shape. "A kitchen has to be functional, irrespective of its size," she adds.

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