

"THE POPULARITY OF STAINLESS STEEL IN THE HOME CONTINUES FOR MANY GOOD REASONS - IT IS VERSATILE, DURABLE AND HAS A CLASSIC AESTHETIC APPEAL"

- Max Russell, Australian Stainless Steel Development Association



## SO JUST WHAT IS STAINLESS STEEL?

The term 'stainless steel' is a generic reference to the family of steels which are corrosion-resistant. These steels contain equal to or more than 10.5 per cent chromium - the element that endows stainless steel with the ability to fight corrosion that may occur from either physical or chemical damage. Another classification method is the grading of the metal for specific uses. Grade 304 - look for the 18/8 or 18/10 designation - is the most versatile and widely used stainless steel. Resistant to ordinary rusting in architectural applications, as well as most food processing environments and many organic and inorganic chemicals, chances are your cutlery, saucepans and sinks fall under this graded classification.

Story: Rose-Marie Hillier. Photography: Dan Magree

# steel the show

STAINLESS STEEL IS A HOT OPTION FOR RENOVATORS. USED WIDELY - IN TILES, APPLIANCES, BENCHTOPS - IT'S CHIC AND VERY POPULAR

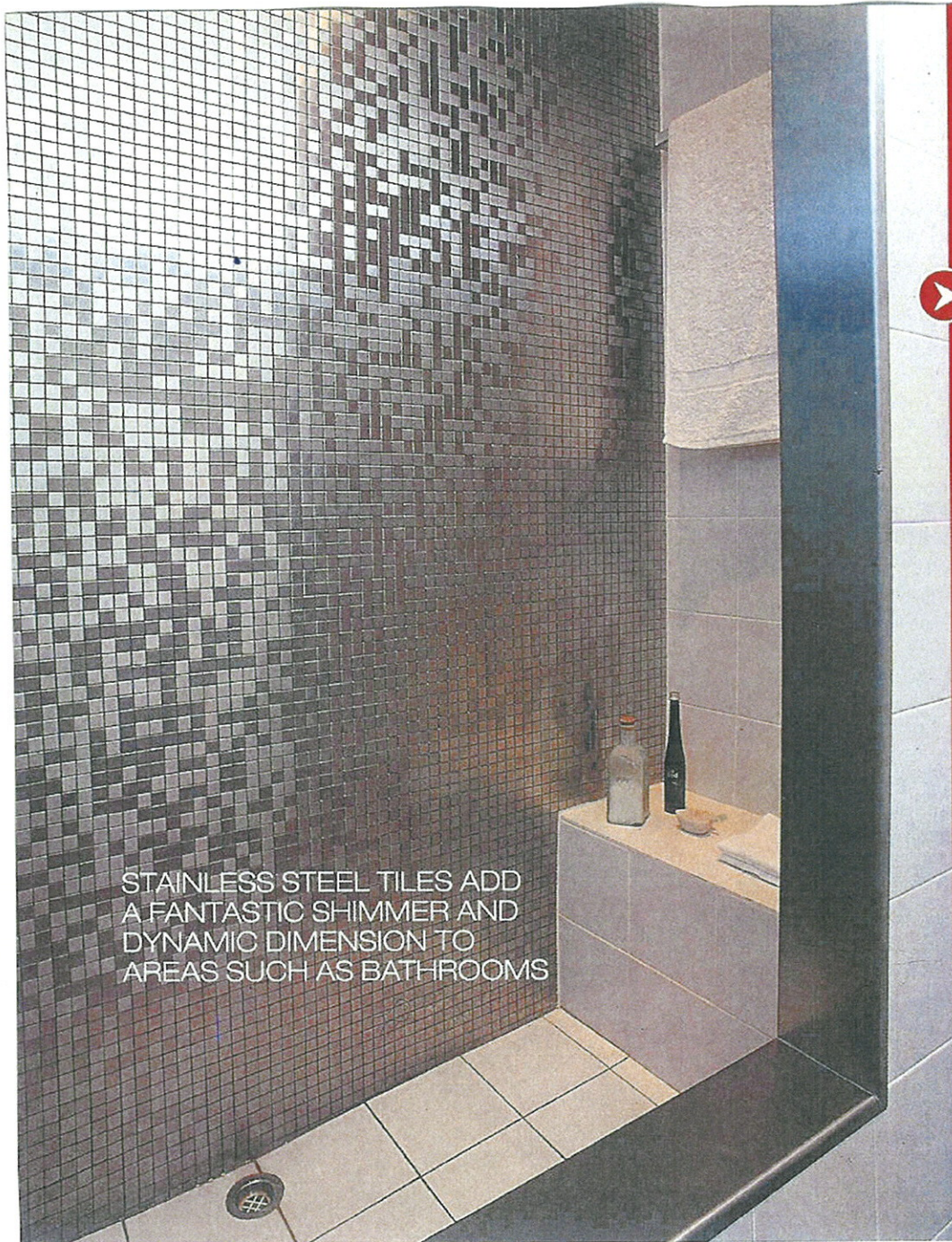
If you're going for the glow of metal in your home, then stainless steel has got it over all the others. The great attractions of practicality and strength combine with a look that is so beautifully expressive. Stainless steel brings a chic and contemporary edge to the home, borrowed from industrial contexts such as factories, laboratories and commercial kitchens, and the cool reflective surface creates a visual impact that's sharp and clean.

**THE FUTURE IS NOW** Today, stainless steel no longer provides the shock of the new. Remember how it polarised the nation? You either loved it or you hated it. Increasingly, there are innovative stainless

steel designer and building products being launched onto the renovation market which complement other contemporary materials such as glass, concrete and timber.

Stainless steel tiles are a great example. Sydney company Alloy has a highly sought-after range of stainless steel tiles and mosaics, which are crafted using a 2mm-thick material that provides for extra strength. "They are brilliant. They behave like a ceramic tile, and they are ideal for splashbacks. You can expect to pay around \$400 per square metre," says Jonathon Worner, design director of Alloy.

Many tile retailers are now stocking exciting ranges of stainless steel tiles - for example, Pazotti has a great variety of ▶



STAINLESS STEEL TILES ADD A FANTASTIC SHIMMER AND DYNAMIC DIMENSION TO AREAS SUCH AS BATHROOMS



## HOW DO YOU CLEAN STAINLESS STEEL?

- Clean regularly with water, mild detergent and a soft cloth, and dry to remove any streaky marks. You can also find cleaning solutions specifically for stainless steel at your local supermarket
- Never use bleach or steel wool, which are usually made of carbon steel. Any fragments left behind will rust onto the stainless steel surface.
- Don't use sponges that have previously been used on ordinary steel, also due to the risk of carbon fragments being left behind to rust onto the stainless steel surface.
- Stubborn fingermarks will come off with window or glass cleaner, methylated spirits or turpentine. Rinse with water and dry.
- You can give longer protection in high traffic areas by lightly rubbing with olive oil or baby oil, followed by a polish with a soft cloth.
- Never use abrasive cleaning products as this will lead to unnecessary scratching.
- Polish or apply cleaners in the same direction as the 'grain' of the stainless steel. This will help reduce streaks.
- Commercial stainless steel cleaners are an option for appliances and objects that are on display.



Above, from left to right: Merit Satin three-piece serving set, \$29.95, Bambis; Tank canisters, from \$42 each, Alloy; D38 Tall basin mixer in stainless steel, \$1068, Paco Jaanson; Arne Jacobsen Stelton water jug, \$240, Jarass; Aero bar stools, \$385 each, Korban/Flaubert. For stockists see Buyer's Guide.