



OFFICINE GULLO

Inspired, Bespoke Kitchens

When Carmelo Gullo founded Officine Gullo, in 1984, the intention was to create bespoke kitchens that brought the family together in a warm, inviting environment. At a time when kitchens have become more hi-tech, streamlined and focused on efficiency, Carmelo and his sons have returned the kitchen to its rightful, and traditional position – the heart of the home – and it is here that

families come together to talk about the day, and prepare wholesome meals.

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

While teaching mechanics and construction in Florence in the early 1980s, Carmelo Gullo used his afternoons to indulge his passion for construction, renovating homes, and creating

custom classic kitchens in luxury apartments, antique farmhouses and manor houses, for private clients. His designs were inspired by the rich cultural history of Florence – the capital of Italy's Tuscan region and the birthplace of the Italian Renaissance. He was drawn to the region's tradition, history, artistic legacy and its influence on high culture and naturally its lifestyle, which revolves around gastronomy

Photos: © Courtesy of Officine Gullo

and fine wine. Carmelo collaborated with local artisans who specialised in metalworking: blacksmiths, bronze workers, as well as historians who could guide them in terms of period finishes. Their attention to detail, skilled craftsmanship and unique style saw Gullo kitchens' popularity grow within the high-end furnishings sector.

In 1992, he left his teaching position and dedicated himself to his business full-time. He brought production in-house, hiring the most skilled metal specialists in Florence. Soon the company, which had initially operated exclusively on commissions in the Italian market grew to include its own workshop, (which handled every stage of production), a design office, an administrative office and a warehouse, and a worldwide distribution network.

INSPIRED BESPOKE DESIGNS

As they were when Carmelo first started, each of Gullo's custom kitchens are infused with this rich Florentine heritage, and combine the region's long-standing metal-work traditions with the benefits of advanced engineering and state-of-the-art technology.

Gullo clients are able to fully customise their kitchen in terms of composition, size, colour and finish. The designs from the technical design department are intuitive, interpreting the desires and culinary habits of the kitchen's future owner. Every detail, starting from the layout and appliance choice, to the style and finish, even the height of the tops and cabinetries, are calibrated according to the measurements of those who will live daily the kitchen.

EXCEPTIONAL QUALITY

There is an exceptional focus on quality at Officine Gullo, and clients can choose from a variety of noble materials such as high-thickness stainless steel, burnished copper, cast iron and forged metal. These solid high-quality metals can be treated using many techniques, so they can be altered aesthetically to be burnished, chromed, nickelled and polished.

Officine Gullo kitchens are designed and built to last a lifetime, and are carefully assembled by highly skilled artisans who oversee and make each piece, from the knobs to the trims, by hand. Cutting edge technology is incorporated seamlessly into the 18th-century-inspired traditional family kitchen design, in the form of a wide range of professional cooking accessories





for built-in hobs and cooking suites: including lava stone grills, smooth and grooved griddles, pasta cookers/steamers, deep fryers, cast-iron coup de feu, and induction cooktops. The range is completed by high-power burners in solid brass, with power up to 10 kW and multifunction, ventilated built-in ovens in stainless steel.

One of the challenges Officine Gullo faced was ensuring that the home gourmet would experience and benefit from the highly professional equipment and techniques used by Michelin-starred chefs around the world. To develop and guarantee a professional standard, across all their professional cooking accessories, the company worked closely with Marco Stabile from Ora d'Aria restaurant, Vito Mollica from The Four Seasons Hotel

Firenze and Aram Mnatsakanov from Probka, Moscow's favourite restaurant. Each of these Michelin-starred chefs provided invaluable advice that contributed to the excellence of Gullo's design. These chefs have even installed Officine Gullo kitchens in their own restaurants.

A COMPLETE EXPERIENCE

Officine Gullo has also created a collection of unique objects, which are the natural complement to a kitchen, including high-thickness steel sinks, solid brass taps, copper panels, tables, chairs and chandeliers, which perfectly complement their kitchens. They even ventured into the lost art of fine dining and table-setting, by creating a line of

hand-forged knives, leather accessories and copper cookware for traditional-style cooking.

CURRENT SOUTH AFRICAN KITCHEN DESIGN TRENDS

The popular kitchen design trends in South Africa are as wonderfully eclectic as our people. In 2016, hi-tech, minimalist designs are still popular, however they aren't to everyone's tastes, particularly if the look of your home leans more towards country manor, or provincial villa, than the edgy Manhattan loft apartment. There is a strong trend for using authentic materials such as wood, glass and metals in particular, and integrated living spaces are frequently requested, which are seeing relaxed family meals being brought

back into large, welcoming kitchens. Neutral colour palettes are also popular, and industrial / steampunk influences are evident in the prominence of industrial and luxurious metals such as copper, stainless steel and iron, in combination with exposed brickwork and industrial inspired double volume windows. What makes Officine Gullo's stylings so remarkable is that they work beautifully within most of the popular design trends and they offer the promise of high and lasting quality. Whether you're incorporating the heavy brass hinges and splash backs into a stunning steampunk inspired kitchen or selecting a white pearl finish for a more classic country feel, the level of customisation and personal attention from the Gullo team will ensure that you end up with the kitchen of your dreams. ■

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