

SIMPLY THE BEST

When it comes to product design and manufacturing, reports **Zinta Jurjans Heard**, Australians are second to none.



IN THE 1990s, the Alessi kettle designed by American Michael Graves, with its bird whistle on the spout, became a “must have” item in Australian homes. When readers submitted images for a *Belle* magazine kitchens and bathrooms special issue, the kettle dominated benchtops, and the magazine had to run a “count the number of kettles” competition to make the styling slip-up look deliberate.

Australian designers were not to be outdone. Robert Foster’s water jug became a juggernaut — stylists and retailers loved it, and the Museum of Modern Art (MOMA) in New York snapped it up for its gallery shop and collection; London’s Victoria & Albert Museum shop also put it on its shelves. It still features on brides’ wish lists and is widely available.

Mr Foster explains that the jug “ticks all the boxes — it has integrity, beauty, and works in different environments. It pours with a beautiful stream of water, doesn’t drip, and can be virtually held with one finger and won’t tip over. The combination of the elegant, organic



Main picture: Fink’s original water jug has evolved into a range of colours in matt and satin finishes, rrp from \$300.

Left: The shape of the Vaxis vase, by Fink, is based on a bird in flight, rrp \$139.95.