A key highlight from consumer goods fair Ambiente this month, UK-based Universal Expert’s approach to creating practical yet stylish solutions for the modern home make it a brand to watch. The latest venture from renowned British designer Sebastian Conran, the collection is designed with urban living in mind – chiming with the lifestyle depicted in Design Democracy: Shift that desires space-saving and transformable products.

The contemporary product range places functionality foremost. Utilitarian shapes dominate designs with clean lines in white ceramic, brushed metal and pale wood. Dual-functionality is a common feature among compact products for tidy kitchens. They include a bread bin with a drop-down side that becomes a chopping board, and an electric whisk with attached storage unit, to keep accessories and wiring neatly stowed.

Practicality is also found in the more lighthearted designs – a particular highlight being the stacking mugs with saucers that double as lids, the coloured handles adding an element of fun. For similar uses of colour, look to White With a Bright from Ambiente 2014: Colour & Materials.

For more innovations in kitchen and tableware, look out for our full Ambiente 2014 coverage. See the Practical Details trend for standout products that feature original and additional functionality.