



EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(43) Date of publication:
10.05.2023 Bulletin 2023/19

(51) International Patent Classification (IPC):
A47B 77/00 (2006.01) A47B 77/02 (2006.01)

(21) Application number: **22205213.6**

(52) Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC):
A47B 77/02; A47B 77/00

(22) Date of filing: **03.11.2022**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
**AL AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB
GR HR HU IE IS IT LI LT LU LV MC ME MK MT NL
NO PL PT RO RS SE SI SK SM TR**
Designated Extension States:
BA
Designated Validation States:
KH MA MD TN

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(30) Priority: **09.11.2021 IT 202100028409**

(54) **MODULAR KITCHEN, PARTICULARLY FOR SMALL DWELLINGS, HOTEL SUITES, RESIDENCES, OFFICES AND THE LIKE**

(57) A modular kitchen, particularly for small dwellings, hotel suites, residences, offices and the like, comprising at least one island unit (2) and at least one independent containment element (3); such island unit (2) is provided with a cooking area (4) and a washing area (5);

the containment element (3) is provided with devices for cooking (8) and for preserving (7) food; the kitchen (1) has an overall space occupation in plan view comprised between 2.5 m² and 8 m², in order to allow its placement within rooms of small dimensions.

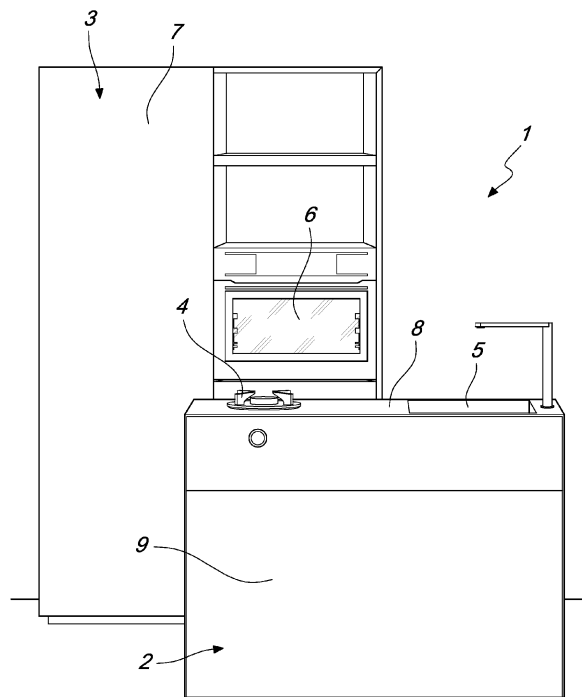


Fig. 1

Description

[0001] The present invention relates to a modular kitchen, particularly for small dwellings, hotel suites, residences, offices and the like.

[0002] The kitchen has always been one of the most important rooms in the home, since it is the space where people spend the most of their time, not just for consuming food and cooking, but also as a space for congregation where the family meets and guests are received.

[0003] In recent years the importance of this room has grown to the point to become a luxury good, a demonstration of social prestige, moving to the center of the day zone and becoming the vital space par excellence, where people get together.

[0004] For this reason, in order to satisfy customer demand, on the market there are many solutions that seek to combine functionality, practicality and convenience, with a high aesthetic value that a luxury good demands.

[0005] A modern domestic kitchen is usually composed of several elements: a cooking hob (gas, electric or induction cooking rings), an oven, a microwave oven, a sink, a pantry, cabinets with drawers (for plates, cutlery, various cooking utensils), refrigerator with freezer, dishwasher and the like.

[0006] It is evident that in large spaces it is easy to find the right placement for each element, while meeting the aesthetic requirements of customers, but when one has only small spaces and reduced square-footage available (as is the case in most modern dwellings), the proposed solutions are not very practical and are hardly attractive from the aesthetic point of view.

[0007] The tendency is in fact to offer wall-mounted or corner solutions, with wall cabinets and extractable elements, or slide-out solutions, which are also typically wall-mounted, in which the various elements of the kitchen are hidden by walls or by sliding leaves, with the prospect substantially of cooking inside a sort of cabinet.

[0008] It is evident that all these solutions do not offer a high aesthetic value, nor can they be defined as distinctive and prestigious solutions, and for this reason the presence is generally necessary of an island and of containment elements of great impact (therefore not wall cabinets arranged above the sink).

[0009] But the main drawback of these solutions is represented by the reduced or total absence of interaction between people, in that the person who is cooking is forced to turn their back on family members and guests.

[0010] The aim of the present invention is to solve the above mentioned drawbacks, by providing a modular kitchen, particularly for small dwellings, hotel suites, residences, offices and the like, that is compact and overall has a reduced space occupation.

[0011] Within this aim, an object of the invention is to provide a modular kitchen, particularly for small dwellings, hotel suites, residences, offices and the like, of high aesthetic value and elegance, that enables continuity and complete integration between the kitchen environment

with the dining room/living room.

[0012] Another object of the invention is to provide a modular kitchen, particularly for small dwellings, hotel suites, residences, offices and the like, that facilitates interaction between people.

[0013] Another object of the present invention is to provide a modular kitchen, particularly for small dwellings, hotel suites, residences, offices and the like, that is functional and which comprises electrical household appliances for the principal functions of washing, cooking and preserving food.

[0014] Another object of the invention is to provide a modular kitchen, particularly for small dwellings, hotel suites, residences, offices and the like, that is simple in design and capable of meeting the design requirements of designers, architects, interior designers and the like.

[0015] Another object of the present invention is to provide a modular kitchen, particularly for small dwellings, hotel suites, residences, offices and the like, that is of low cost, easily and practically implemented and safe in use.

[0016] This aim and these and other objects that will become more apparent hereinafter are achieved by a modular kitchen, particularly for small dwellings, hotel suites, residences, offices and the like, characterized in that it comprises at least one island unit and at least one independent containment element, said at least one island unit being provided with a cooking area and a washing area, said at least one containment element being provided with devices for cooking and preserving food, said kitchen having an overall space occupation in plan view comprised between 2.5 m² and 8 m², in order to allow its placement within rooms of small dimensions.

[0017] Further characteristics and advantages of the invention will become better apparent from the description of a preferred, but not exclusive, embodiment of the modular kitchen, particularly for small dwellings, hotel suites, residences, offices and the like, according to the invention, which is illustrated by way of non-limiting example in the accompanying drawings wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the modular kitchen, according to the invention;

Figure 2 is a schematic view of a possible configuration of the modular kitchen, according to the invention;

Figure 3 is a schematic view of a different possible configuration of the modular kitchen, according to the invention;

Figure 4 is a schematic view of another configuration of the modular kitchen, according to the invention;

Figure 5 is a schematic view of a different possible configuration of the modular kitchen, according to the invention;

Figure 6 is a schematic view of a further possible configuration of the modular kitchen, according to the invention.

[0018] With reference to the figures, the reference numeral 1 generally designates a modular kitchen, particularly for small dwellings, hotel suites, residences, offices and the like.

[0019] According to the invention, the modular kitchen 1 comprises at least one island unit 2 and at least one independent containment element 3.

[0020] Such island unit 2 is provided with a cooking area 4 and a washing area 5.

[0021] The containment element 3 is provided with devices for cooking 6 and for preserving 7 food.

[0022] The kitchen 1, according to the invention, has an overall space occupation in plan view comprised between 2.5 m² and 8 m², in order to allow its placement within rooms of small dimensions.

[0023] It is therefore evident that the kitchen 1, according to the invention, solves the drawbacks of conventional kitchens, generally installed in small apartments and reduced square-footage; in fact, the presence of the island unit 2 and of independent containment elements 3 of great impact, fully satisfy the demand for high aesthetic value.

[0024] The island unit 2 further represents a central element for congregation, around which people gather; the person who is engaged in the preparation of food can also cook without turning their back to others, and can interact with the people present.

[0025] According to a solution of particular effectiveness and efficiency, the island unit 2 can have overall dimensions in plan view comprised between 0.72 m² and 1.08 m² and be of the modular type.

[0026] More specifically, the island unit 2 can have a length comprised between 1.2 m and 1.8 m, a depth of 0.6 m and a height comprised between 0.9 m and 0.95 m and be of the modular type.

[0027] In particular, the island unit 2 can comprise a worktop 8, interposed between the cooking area 4 and the washing area 5, and at least one drawer 9 defined in a side wall of such island unit 2.

[0028] It is possible to provide three types of island units 2, of the same height and depth, but of different width, respectively 1.2 m, 1.5 m and 1.8 m, which can be personalized by modifying the internal layout in relation to the number and type of electrical household appliances, and in relation to the number of drawers present.

[0029] The island unit 2 in fact can be provided with a sink and a cooking hob of the type preferably chosen from among a gas cooking ring, an electric cooking ring, an induction cooking ring, a burner, soapstone stove and the like, while keeping the same height, comprised between 0.90 m and 0.95 m and the same overall dimensions in plan view, comprised between 0.72 m² and 1.08 m².

[0030] It should furthermore be noted that the containment element 3 can have overall dimensions in plan view of 0.75 m² and be of the modular type.

[0031] In particular, the containment element 3 can have a length of 1.23 m, a depth of 0.61 m and a height

of 2.03 m and be of the modular type.

[0032] It is possible to provide a single type of containment element 3 which can be personalized by modifying only the internal layout in relation to the arrangement of shelves, drawers and the like, and in relation to the type and number of electrical household appliances present (it is envisaged in any case to provide a maximum of 10 different layouts).

[0033] The containment element 3 in fact can be provided with an oven, a microwave oven, a refrigerator, a wine cooler, a freezer and the like, while keeping the same height, of 2.03 m, and the same overall dimensions in plan view, of 0.75 m².

[0034] In addition shelves, door leaves, drawers and the like can all be provided, inside which plates, cutlery and various kitchen utensils can be stored.

[0035] The proposed solution therefore makes it possible to combine functionality, practicality and convenience, with a high aesthetic value.

[0036] In fact, within the kitchen 1, according to the invention, there will be all the elements necessary to carry out the main functions of washing, cooking and preserving foods, as well as a worktop 8 for use in the preparation and consumption of food.

[0037] It should furthermore be noted that the island unit 2 and the containment element 3 can have a skirting with a height of less than 3 cm in order to ensure the effective ventilation of the installed electrical household appliances.

[0038] It is furthermore evident that the reduced height of the skirting will allow greater availability of space inside the containment element 3.

[0039] According to a solution of particular utility and practicality, the island unit 2 and the containment element 3 can be free-standing in order to allow an easy placement.

[0040] If for example there are two or more containment elements 3, these can be simply placed side by side, as they do not require any connection components which are typical of any modular kitchen solution.

[0041] Furthermore, such island unit 2 and such containment element 3 can have the same color and surface finish characteristics on all the exposed surfaces.

[0042] They can therefore be positioned freely without it being necessary to add sides, which are typical of any modular kitchen solution.

[0043] It is therefore possible to create a continuity, including aesthetic continuity, so providing a kitchen 1 that is perfectly integrated with the rest of the surrounding environment.

[0044] According to a solution that is particularly unique and distinctive, the containment element 3 can have shelves arranged at unique and predefined heights in order to create an aesthetic continuity when arranged laterally adjacent to another containment element 3.

[0045] According to a solution of particular utility and practicality, the distance between the island unit 2 and the independent containment element 3 can be com-

prised between 0.8 m and 1.10 m.

[0046] According to the solution illustrated in the accompanying Figures 1, 2, 3 and 4, the kitchen 1 can comprise a containment element 3 and an island unit 2; such solution can have an overall space occupation in plan view comprised between 2.5 m² and 5 m² in relation to the length of the island unit 2 inserted in the composition.

[0047] The possibility is not ruled out that the kitchen 1, as illustrated in the accompanying Figure 5, can comprise two containment elements 3 side-by-side and two independent island units 2 side-by-side, a first unit 2 comprising the washing area and a second unit 2 comprising the cooking area; such solution having an overall space occupation in plan view of 7 m².

[0048] The possibility is not ruled out furthermore that the kitchen 1, as shown in the accompanying Figure 6, could comprise one island unit 2 and two containment elements 3 side-by-side, such solution having an overall space occupation in plan view of 8 m².

[0049] As illustrated in the accompanying figures, the at least one containment element 3 can be arranged adjacent to a wall, behind the island unit 2.

[0050] It should further be noted that the island 2 can be aligned with the containment element 3 or offset with respect thereto.

[0051] The particular arrangement therefore of the island unit 2, with respect to the containment element 3, meets the functionality requirements by allowing, during the preparation of food, ample space for movement and the possibility of interacting with the other persons present.

[0052] It will therefore be possible to design a complete kitchen system 1 of reduced space occupation, intended not only for apartments but for all applications where space is at a premium, such as for example hotel suites, residences and offices, by containing the maximum dimensions of the individual elements that go to make it up (island units 2 and independent containment elements 3), in order to keep the overall space occupation of the kitchen 1 within the maximum dimensions that are generally necessary to provide a full bathroom.

[0053] It should furthermore be noted that the kitchen 1, according to the invention, represents a modular solution that is entirely new.

[0054] It consists in fact of only a few essential independent components i.e.: three types of island unit 2 (which differ only in their respective length) and one type of containment element 2.

[0055] However, such a small number of components can be used to provide a wide range of combinations.

[0056] The modularity, the number and the dimensions of the individual components that constitute the kitchen 1 according to the invention therefore make it possible to standardize and simplify the corresponding production cycle, thus reducing the dimensions of the entire system, and to simplify the logistics and shipping of the end product, with corresponding cost containment, better profit margins and application of competitive sales prices.

[0057] Even the design activity of architects, designers, interior designers and the like will also be considerably simplified, since the kitchen 1, according to the invention, will be constituted by a few predefined components.

[0058] However, the ability to modify the internal layout of the components will in any case make it possible to meet the diverse and particular demands of the purchaser, by providing kitchens that are functional, practical and convenient but also characterized by a high aesthetic value.

[0059] Advantageously, the modular kitchen 1, particularly for small apartments, hotel suites, residences, offices and the like, according to the invention, is compact and overall has a reduced space occupation.

[0060] Positively, the kitchen according to the invention offers high aesthetic value and elegance and enables continuity and complete integration between the kitchen environment and the dining room/living room.

[0061] Usefully, the modular kitchen 1 particularly for small apartments, hotel suites, residences, offices and the like facilitates interaction between people.

[0062] Effectively, the modular kitchen 1 according to the invention is functional and comprises electrical household appliances for the principal functions of washing, cooking and preserving food.

[0063] Conveniently, the kitchen 1, particularly for small apartments, hotel suites, residences, offices and the like, is simple in design and capable of meeting the design requirements of designers, architects, interior designers and the like, in that it is constituted by a few predefined elements.

[0064] Conveniently, the modular kitchen 1 according to the invention is of low cost, easily and practically implemented and safe in use.

[0065] The invention thus conceived is susceptible of numerous modifications and variations, all of which are within the scope of the appended claims. Moreover, all the details may be substituted by other, technically equivalent elements.

[0066] In the embodiments illustrated, individual characteristics shown in relation to specific examples may in reality be interchanged with other, different characteristics, existing in other embodiments.

[0067] In practice, the materials employed, as well as the dimensions, may be any according to requirements and to the state of the art.

[0068] The disclosures in Italian Patent Application No. 102021000028409 from which this application claims priority are incorporated herein by reference.

[0069] Where technical features mentioned in any claim are followed by reference signs, those reference signs have been included for the sole purpose of increasing the intelligibility of the claims and accordingly, such reference signs do not have any limiting effect on the interpretation of each element identified by way of example by such reference signs.

Claims

1. A modular kitchen, particularly for small dwellings, hotel suites, residences, offices and the like, **characterized in that** it comprises at least one island unit (2) and at least one independent containment element (3), said at least one island unit (2) being provided with a cooking area (4) and a washing area (5), said at least one containment element (3) being provided with devices (6) for cooking and preserving (7) food, said kitchen (1) having an overall space occupation in plan view comprised between 2.5 m² and 8 m², in order to allow its placement within rooms of small dimensions. 5
2. The kitchen according to claim 1, **characterized in that** said island unit (2) has overall dimensions in plan view comprised between 0.72 m² and 1.08 m² and is of the modular type. 10
3. The kitchen according to one or more of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** said island unit (2) has a length comprised between 1.2 m and 1.8 m, a depth of 0.6 m and a height comprised between 0.9 m and 0.95 m and is of the modular type. 15
4. The kitchen according to one or more of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** said island unit (2) comprises a worktop (8) which is interposed between said cooking hob (4) and said sink (5), and at least one drawer (9) defined in a side wall of said island unit (2). 20
5. The kitchen according to one or more of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** said containment element (3) has overall dimensions in plan view of 0.75 m² and is modular. 25
6. The kitchen according to one or more of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** said containment element (3) has a length of 1.23 m, a depth of 0.61 m and a height of 2.03 m and is modular. 30
7. The kitchen according to one or more of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** said island unit and said containment element have a skirting with a height of less than 3 cm in order to ensure the effective ventilation of the installed electrical household appliances. 35
8. The kitchen according to one or more of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** said island unit (2) and said containment element (3) are free-standing, in order to allow an easy placement thereof, said island unit (2) and said containment element (3) having the same color and surface finish characteristics on all the exposed surfaces. 40
9. The kitchen according to one or more of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** said containment element is provided with shelves arranged at unique and predefined heights in order to create an aesthetic continuity when arranged laterally adjacent to another containment element (3). 45
10. The kitchen according to one or more of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** the distance between said island unit (2) and said independent containment element (3) is comprised between 0.8 m and 1.10 m. 50

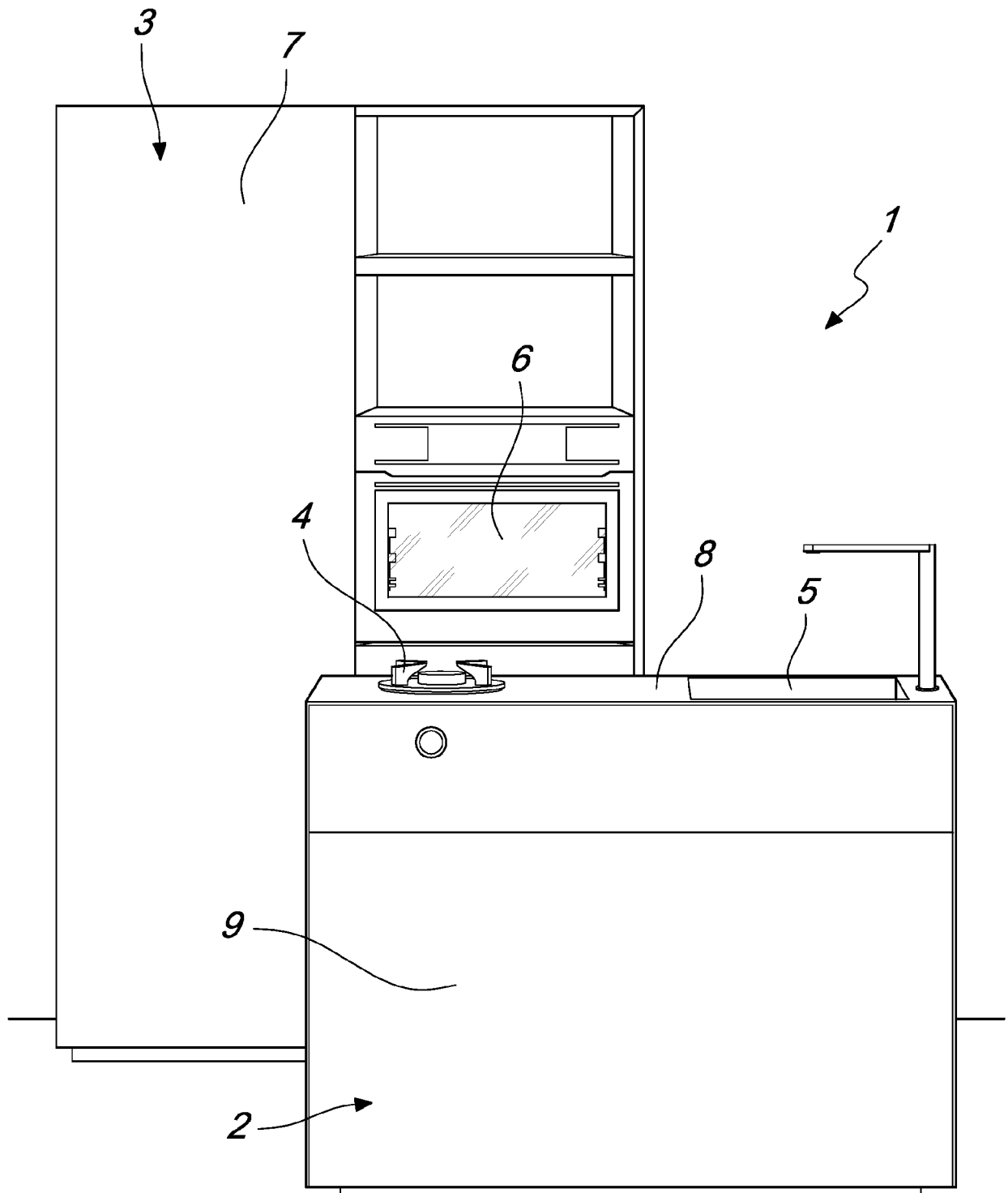


Fig. 1

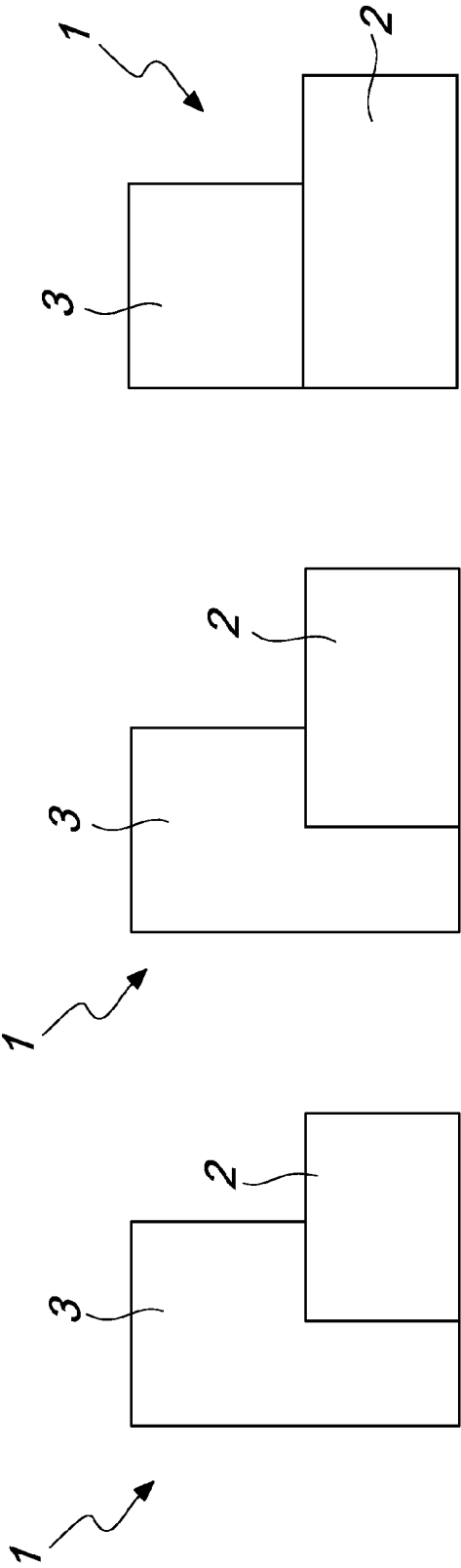


Fig. 4

Fig. 3

Fig. 2

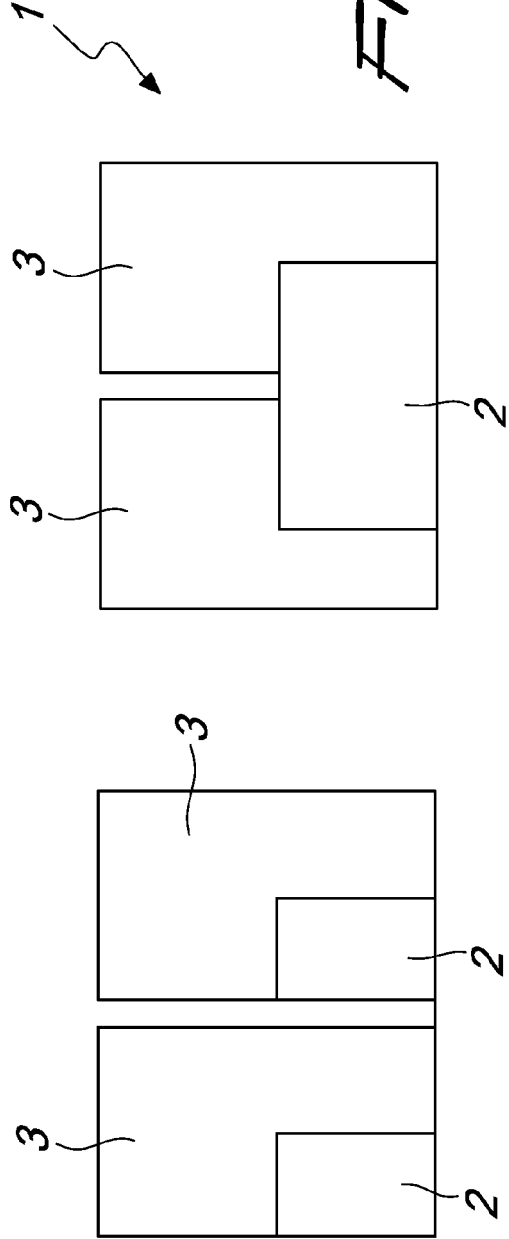


Fig. 5

Fig. 6



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 22 20 5213

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EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	GB 2 549 189 A (EDWARD DEAN [GB]) 11 October 2017 (2017-10-11) * page 1, line 24 - page 17, line 20; figures 1-8 *	1-10	INV. A47B77/00 A47B77/02
X	DE 10 2016 001371 A1 (BULTHAUP GMBH & CO [DE]) 7 September 2017 (2017-09-07) * paragraph [0004] - paragraph [0046]; figures 1-17 *	1-4, 8-10	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			A47B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
The Hague		27 March 2023	Kohler, Pierre
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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EP 22 20 5213

5 This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
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27-03-2023

10	Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82

REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

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Patent documents cited in the description

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