

"A WHO'S WHO IN SPECIALTY ROOM DESIGN"

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(Figure 1) The rich, warm brown tones of this kitchen tie into the woods used throughout the home. Design by CabinetWerks. Wood-Mode Cabinetry. Photography by Linda Oyama Bryan.

DONE IN

Kitchen cabinetry ideas, from contemporary to classic.

Good Taste

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While kitchen design fashions often vary from year to year, and the concept of a dream kitchen is based entirely upon individual style and need, the overriding criteria for good design consistently remains as the incorporation of form and function. As our lives become more hectic and time with family becomes more precious, homeowners and their designers recognize the importance of integrating the most important room of all, the kitchen, into the overall theme of the home. With this in mind, the following are some of what we believe to be the hottest

kitchen trends influencing the decisions of clients and designers today.

The literal and proverbial “home and hearth” ring loud and clear as the kitchen continues to be the center and hub of the home.

Designing the kitchen as an integral part of the home has affected other design choices in constructing custom homes. Using similar architectural elements or materials throughout the home blends the kitchen into the rest of the structure. As an example, by incorporating similar woods, floors and cabinetry throughout

the home *Figure 1*, a unified look is created. Similarly, designers will repeat architectural elements, such as arches incorporated into cabinetry details, to create a feeling of consistency through a residence.

The second major trend in kitchen design is concerned with giving equal attention to a kitchen’s utility as is given to its beauty. Many clients hope to incorporate time-saving appliances and conveniences. Warming drawers help simplify food preparation and allow active homeowners to meet the different



Arches and niches grace this French Country-style kitchen from Wood-Mode. The simple island is actually a custom cabinetry furniture piece that is one of two working islands in the kitchen of this casual summer home. Design by CabinetWerks. Photography by Linda Oyama Bryan.



(Figure 2) Arts and Crafts elements accentuate this stunning kitchen. Design by CabinetWerks. Brookhaven Cabinetry. Photography by Linda Oyama Bryan.

custom home and kitchen design, as many homeowners seek the aesthetic joy of beautifully crafted wood and handcrafted details. Horizontal lines, natural materials (wood, stone and slate) and, often, stained glass are indicative of the Arts and Crafts and Prairie styles.

The final trend we have spotted is a return to Old World stylized environments. The kitchen in *Figure 4* returns to Old World design through the use of multiple materials and finishes. Faux finishes and textures, carved moldings, furniture details and apron sinks are all elements borrowed from Old World designs and reconfigured in contemporary ways. ◀

(Figure 3) Glass display cabinets highlight the perimeter of this kitchen, creating extra storage space as well as beauty. Stacked cabinetry helps draw the eye to the ceiling and further enhances the volume of space. Design by CabinetWerks. Wood-Mode Cabinetry. Photography by Linda Oyama Bryan.



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eating schedules of their hectic lifestyles. Refrigerated wine storage areas in islands transform a spontaneous meal into an elegant experience. Stacked cabinetry has become popular because it allows clients to maximize storage space while emphasizing clean design lines. Both *Figure 2* and *Figure 3* utilize stacked cabinetry to organize the kitchen space.

With the current penchant toward multi-use spaces and versatile designs, there has also been a movement toward transitional and traditional-styled kitchens. Most homeowners living in their dream homes (often custom-designed and built) plan to live there for the rest of their lives, making it a lasting part of their family legacy. Therefore, a classic kitchen that transcends the flux and evolution of fashion has become highly desirable. The popularity of kitchens which incorporate

traditional doors and molding, is on the rise. Both dark and light colored woods are in demand, although many have abandoned sterile white cabinetry in favor of warm ivories and creams.

As more homeowners blend eclectic looks into their interior designs, **Prairie-styled environments** are seeing a notable resurgence. The Prairie style is itself a combination of myriad design influences, including Shaker, Modern, and Mission. A renaissance of the Arts and Crafts movement is also influencing

(Figure 4) This kitchen returns to Old World design through the use of multiple materials and finishes. The focal point is the limestone hood with faux painting, accented by the tumbled marble spice niche and backsplash. Design by CabinetWerks. Wood-Mode Cabinetry. Photography by Linda Oyama Bryan.

