

Trib

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**IN LOVE
WITH YOUR
RE-DO**

RENOVATE

Chicago Tribune Magazine

THE **PROS** KNOW

KITCHEN CABINET

Your renovation agenda?
Enacting a little reform in the kitchen.
Our roster of designers has the sage
advice to keep you on track.

BY BARBARA BALLINGER



Fewer upper cabinets and seating areas, such as the one in the Mick De Giulio-designed kitchen, top, still rank high on kitchen trend lists. Hotter than ever? Built-in appliances including coffee stations as in the Miele installation, bottom, from Abt Electronics.

JULIA BUCKINGHAM

Founder, Buckingham
Interiors + Design,
Chicago



► **DO** take advantage of the latest technology in electrical systems, audiovisual, and mechanicals. Newer systems save time, money, and increase the renovation's return on investment. The latest trends are in LED lighting, radiant flooring, televisions that pop up and move down, appliances integrated with smart phones and tablets or a refrigerator with an Internet connection, touch screen, and camera to save recipes, watch cooking videos, compose shopping lists. For healthfulness, consider a steam oven.

► **DON'T** enlarge the square footage if that means using lesser-priced, inferior materials. Keep the job small to add to the room's tastefulness, durability, sustainability. Timeless classics survive trends.

MICK DE GIULIO

Founder, De Giulio Kitchen Design, Chicago

► **DO** heed the domino effect. One simple change may affect others. Consider all the ramifications. Example: You changed your double ovens to a free-standing range. Are you compensating for the loss of pot and pan storage at the cooking area?

► **DON'T** limit the dreaming process. Put together a wish list, prioritize goals, and consider different ways to achieve them. The most expensive line item of any project can be regret. You can cut back at the end before you proceed.

KRISTA BENTON

Cabinet Designer for CabinetWerks Design
Studio, Orren Pickell Building Group,
Northfield

► **DO** have appliances that fit your lifestyle, which may mean moving away from a standard cooktop and double wall oven, putting a rarely used microwave in a pantry, or opting for a smaller pull-out freezer if you're not a fan of frozen foods.

► **DON'T** think you have to cover every wall with cabinetry; less is more. Use fewer upper cabinets to make a visual statement with a great backsplash. Use more drawers below than cabinets, which saves steps in opening, closing, and pulling out shelves, and makes reaching inside easier.

JOE KLETT

Manager, Custom Kitchens,
Abt Electronics and Appliances,
Glenview

► **DO** consider using under-counter refrigerator drawers close to a work zone for common items like fruit, vegetables, milk, and juices since many new, larger kitchens have a shortage of wall space due to open floor plans and windows. Sometimes, the main refrigerator gets located too far from the main work zone.

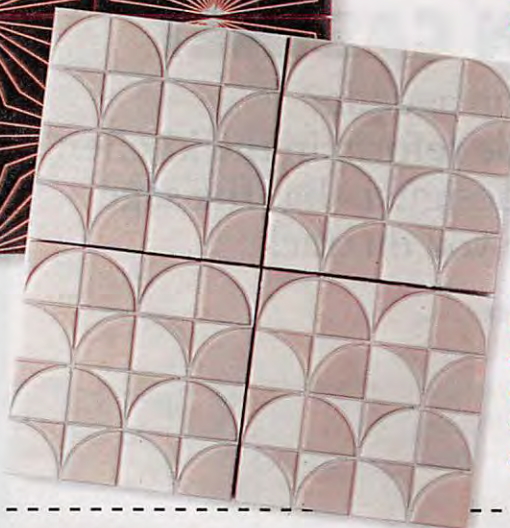
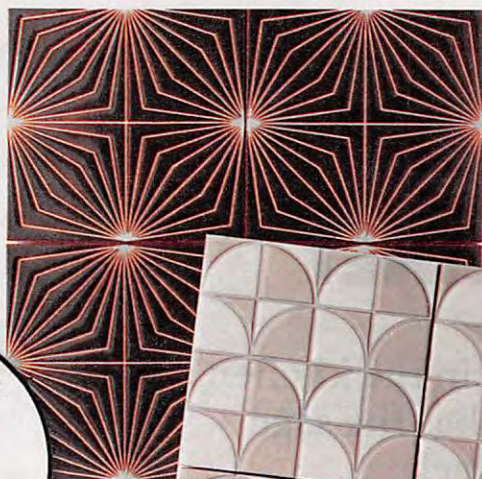
► **DON'T** assume that your existing dishes and cookware will fit in new appliances. Plates, bowls, and pans are getting bigger. Bring a few dishes to a store to make sure. Order appliances at the same time as cabinets since manufacturers change lines.

FRED WILSON

Morgante-Wilson Architects,
Chicago

► **DO** make the work space separate without traffic circulating through it. Visitors to your kitchen should be comfortable and able to sit down, either at an island or breakfast table and be able to talk with you while you work in the kitchen.

► **DON'T** skimp on kitchen equipment. The price to upgrade to better appliances in the overall scheme of the cost of the kitchen is minimal. Get the appliances you want because you will use them every day.



Artistic restraint

Fireclay Tile, known for sustainably-made offerings infused with saturated colors and exuberant patterns, debuted a Contemporary Collection for those who prefer a more modern or clean-lined aesthetic. With its geometric motifs that range from tone-on-tone to high-contrast combinations, the hand-painted tiles can be used for installations that are elegantly minimal or wildly maximal, depending on how they're arrayed. (fireclaytile.com, \$35 per tile) — L.S.

House calling

What's up with the smart home? Your thermostat will be calling with the latest details.

NEST



Now that it's owned by Google, the "Works with Nest" program this year adds 15 partner manufacturers whose products communicate with the company's thermostat and smoke detector. Combined with an Ooma phone system, the Nest smoke and carbon dioxide detector can now prompt an alarm call to your smartphone. A Nest thermostat can trigger a call if a family member doesn't arrive home by a certain time. Or, when the house empties, Nest shifts LG's refrigerator into power-saving mode. Kwikset and August locks, Philips Hue lighting and Whirlpool washer-dryers have joined the program, too. Info: nest.com/works-with-nest.

BELKIN



Belkin's home-automation products empower a smartphone app with full control of WeMo devices, among them a light switch, baby monitor, motion sensor, slow cooker and, eventually, a water sensor. WeMo Water, still in development, attaches to a water line and, when plugged in, knows when each sink, shower or toilet is used and tracks water consumption by sensing vibrations through the plumbing system. Available data also can identify leaks and other problems. New WeMo products expected later this year include door/window alarms and motion sensors. Info: belkin.com — Kevin Hunt

6,250

Nails in a 2,500-square-foot home's new asphalt shingle roof

4

Bills you'll likely see from your contractor before your renovation is over

13

Workers who'll typically walk through your house during a kitchen reno

528

Subway tiles it will take to tile a typical shower