

What is beautiful is not always good, but what is good is always beautiful



BY ALLAN
CARRUTHERS

Attraction to what we perceive as beauty is natural. But don't get lured onto the rocks by the sirens' sweet songs like the sailors in Greek mythology.

Shopping for a kitchen may not be as perilous as this, but decisions made on appearance alone can lead to disappointment when that beauty isn't backed by quality.



Before choosing new cabinetry for your kitchen, make sure to carefully examine its construction. Methods vary, but there are two main types: framed and frameless (also known as European). Framed

cabinets feature a hardwood frame on the box perimeter and exposed or hidden hinges. They're solid when well constructed, but often have troublesome stiles or centre posts in the middle of two doors, which can make loading or unloading items less convenient.

Technology has improved the joinery systems on European style cabinets, dispensing with the need for a frame altogether. Doors typically cover the full height and width of the cabinet and hinges are hidden. When viewing the interior of a cabinet note the flexibility in shelf placement. Inexpensive cabinets will offer shelf movement of only a few inches.

Two of the most common materials used in the construction of cabinets are particle board and plywood, both of which are used by Laurysen Kitchens. Plywood is thicker and a bit more expensive.



Most cabinets are made of particle board covered in white melamine or the softer look of maple wood grain melamine. The quality of melamine, which is actually a paper chemically bonded to the particle board, varies. The highest unit weight of 125 grams per square metre is Laurysen's standard and assures you a scuff- and water-resistant interior.

The exterior finish on the side panel of a quality cabinet will be wood veneer. Veneer is a very thin sheet of wood peeled off the log as it rotates on a lathe. Be alert, lesser cabinet exteriors will feature wood grain melamine that can mimic and closely resemble wood. But remember, melamine is paper not wood.



For their drawers, consumers can choose between regular or full extension slides. Full extension hardware

draws the rear of the drawer flush with the face of the cabinet giving optimum access to the drawer interior. Dovetail boxes with a full extension shock absorbing closing mechanism are also available.

When you see Laurysen's beautifully-built boxes, you may not want to cover them with a door. You'll be happy to know then, that when you do you'll have 115 different door profiles in six wood species to select from. Door finishing involves sanding and the application of semi-transparent penetrating stain with a final protective clear lacquer coating. A non-yellowing lacquer will keep the doors appearance fresh looking for many years.

All of the above features can be viewed in Laurysen's kitchen displays, so whether your needs are for a standard, semi-custom or full-custom cabinet come to our showroom to experience the difference quality makes.

This is the third in a five-part series presented by Laurysen Kitchens. Look for Part 4 in Home Life, December 7th.

Laurysen Kitchens

Kitchens That Sizzle!

Visit our award winning showroom at:
2415 Carp Rd. Stittsville
Tel: (613) 836-5353 Fax: (613) 836-7511
www.laurysenkitchens.com

