

Kitchen trends: functionality, features and colours



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The last 10 to 15 years have seen a huge shift in the way we use, and look at, our kitchens.

Once seen as a room for food preparation and meal cleanups, today's kitchen is a gathering place, an area where we can unwind from the stress of the day and interact with family. As the

importance of this room has grown, so has the demand for personalized designs.

Generic floor plans have truly become a thing of the past, and designers are offering new innovations in functionality, features and colour.

Functionality:

Islands and eating bars on peninsulas – perhaps the most popular recent trends in functionality – provide a focal point to initiate interaction, along with the benefit of providing additional 'eat at' or work areas.

With many homes now featuring nine foot ceilings, design elements such as staggering uppers and detailed members can be used to create a unique look and help to highlight a dramatic focal point. Along with altered heights, cabinet and countertop depths are adjusted to emphasize a look.

Features

Decorative hoods, crowns, trim moldings, turned posts and textured glass inserts in doors are popular details.

If a modern look is desired, cabinets with clean sleek lines are used. Stainless Steel accents and backsplashes are frequently included in the design to match appliances with matching finishes.

Cabinetry hardware has left the realm of simple button pulls. Everything from artistically influenced handles and bin pulls to stainless steel rods and hand-forged hardware is used to accessorize and add a subtle design oomph.

The trend in countertops has seen a strong interest in natural materials such as granite and maple. Man-made solid surface counters, such as Corian, stainless steel, glass and



This kitchen demonstrates: 42" raised maple eating bar, granite counters, heavy dentil crown, staggered up and out uppers, open shelves, ornate knobs, glass doors with mullins.

ceramic tile counters are also popular. It is not uncommon for clients to combine the various options within their kitchen in response to functional demands, or to emphasize a focal point or feature in the design.

Colour

Bright, sophisticated, soothing colours form the palette of choice for kitchen furnishings. An air of freshness jolted with accents of rich reds and neon citrus can also be seen. Ivory, vanillas, tranquil blue-green, fresh transparent greens and nougat with an undertone of copper, as well as shiny or corroded copper, round out the selection.

According to the Color Marketing Group, In 2005 home colours will continue to soften and become more serene. Colours will include a yellow infused pink, a softened red, red-infused blue, an organic green, and white infused with yellow.

Laurysen Kitchens has introduced a wonderful palette of glazed colours to complement a wide selection of hand wiped stains.

To see the latest in kitchen and bath design trends, and colours, I invite you to come to Laurysen Kitchen's award-winning showroom at 2415 Carp Rd. Stittsville.

This is the first in a five-part series presented by Laurysen Kitchens. Look for Part 2 in Home Life, October 19th.

Laurysen Kitchens

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