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KITCHEN & BATH

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2021 KITCHEN TRENDS

As people try to make the best out of working from home and spending more time indoors in the wake of the unfortunate pandemic, kitchens have taken center stage. They are no longer merely spaces for whipping up meals and entertaining guests on lazy Sunday afternoons. Instead, they have become the activity hub. From Zoom meetings to entertaining TikTok videos to budding DIY projects, kitchens have hosted a series of activities. And guess what?

Top kitchen designers agree that this focus on activity in and around the kitchen is here to stay. Here are some ways to make your kitchen 2021 ready:





A More Wooden Touch

It is easy to dismiss wood as a done and dusted idea that belongs to the medieval world. However, we beg to differ on this. Adding wood to the kitchen, be it on floors, cabinets, or even countertops adds charm, warmth, and character to any space. It also works with any design, including modern kitchens. We have featured so many wood designs over the years and know just what it takes to make your kitchen stand out in the home.

You can either go all-in with wood or add just enough to transform your kitchen into a warm haven. Even a few wood cabinets against a white wall will work magic. If you do not want the wood to be the focal point, how about using its elements as accent points? Adding wood cabinetry as an accent to your design can still create a seamless look without taking away from the the lighting, countertop or other elements of the design.



A Neutral Decision

Black or white? How about neither? Over recent years, there has been a sharp increase in the number of people embracing bright or dark colors. There's even been a more significant increase in kitchens which have both bright and dark hues adorning the fixtures, walls, and ceilings. But does that mean that neutrals are dead?

Quite the contrary. As much as some people may find them boring, mid-tone colors are actually a fantastic choice for your kitchen. They enable you to experiment with all types of appliances and are the right choice for anyone who is not too sure about a color scheme. If you are worried that your kitchen may look too bland with these colors, you can warm them up a bit and liven up your space.





Going Darker

Black in a kitchen? If this were a while back, this statement would have raised a few eyebrows. Back then, and even now, some would argue that dark colors and cold neutrals did not belong to the kitchen. That these darker or cooler tones were not ideal for stimulating appetites. But opinions change, and so has this one.

Kitchen designs come down to personal preference and taste. While black and other dark hues may not be your first choice for a kitchen color, we have worked on many dark-finished kitchens that have proved successful. Dark hues are an excellent choice for contrast and can work with a ton of designs. If you are not too sure about going darker, try some dark hues as accent colors and keep bright hues in the focal points. Any ideas?

Marble for the Win

Natural stone countertops are here to stay. The question is which option will steal the show in 2021. As much as granite has become a go-to for budget-conscious remodelers in the past, marble takes the day. So, what makes these stones so different?

Granite comes in many colors and styles, which works for almost all kitchen styles. Plus, it does not require significant maintenance and can last the lifetime of your home. Seems like a winner, yes? On the downside, it can scratch and stain easily.



Marble shines with its veiny patterns, and in 2021, the more prominent the veins, the more eye-catching the design will be. There is no denying that this stone is the more elegant choice of the two. It screams high luxury and comes in enough styles to suit any kitchen remodel. Plus, it is heat resistant. Of course, this luxury

comes at a higher price (not to mention the high stain and scratch susceptibility). But maintenance aside, our marble designs prove that this veiny smooth-surfaced natural stone is the way to elevate your kitchen game. As for the stains, we will add some sealant to the finish to keep your kitchen surfaces looking prim.

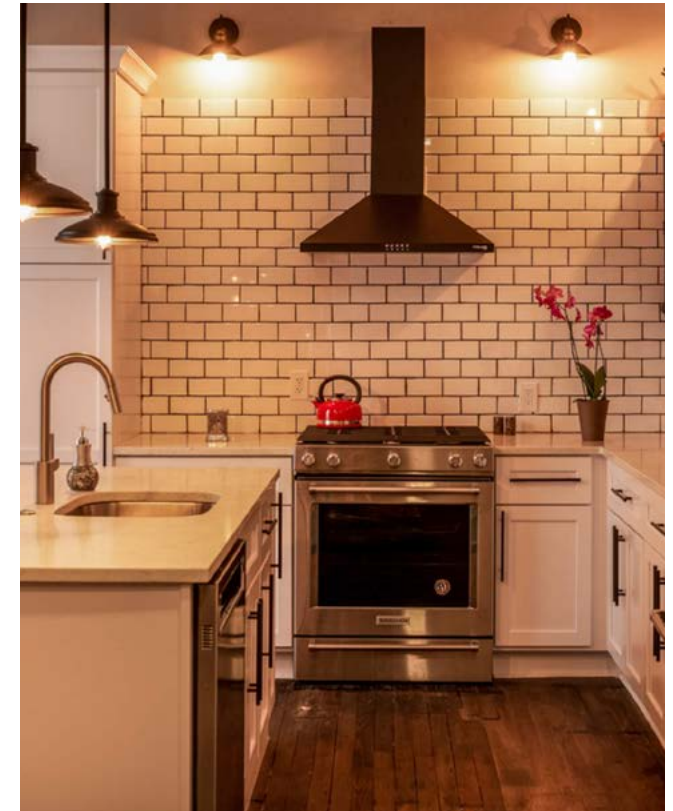
Making that Color Pop

Bringing out focal points in your kitchen comes down to your color scheme. Focus on the paintwork too much and cabinetry or countertops get lost in the art. Or risk that cabinets or countertops become too much of a focal if you underplay the paintwork. How can you strike a balance? Warm neutrals!

Warm neutral designs ooze sophistication and are just what your kitchen needs to be in balance. But do not stop there. Your beiges, greiges, and other common hues can also embrace different timeless colors that work great for your kitchen pallets and accents. It's all in the undertone.

- Warm: If you want a cozy space, go with yellow, orange, and brown undertones. These have a comforting allure that blends in well with the working from home ideal.
- Cool: For a sophisticated room that gives off a hint of decadence, go with cool neutrals such as blue, grey, and green.





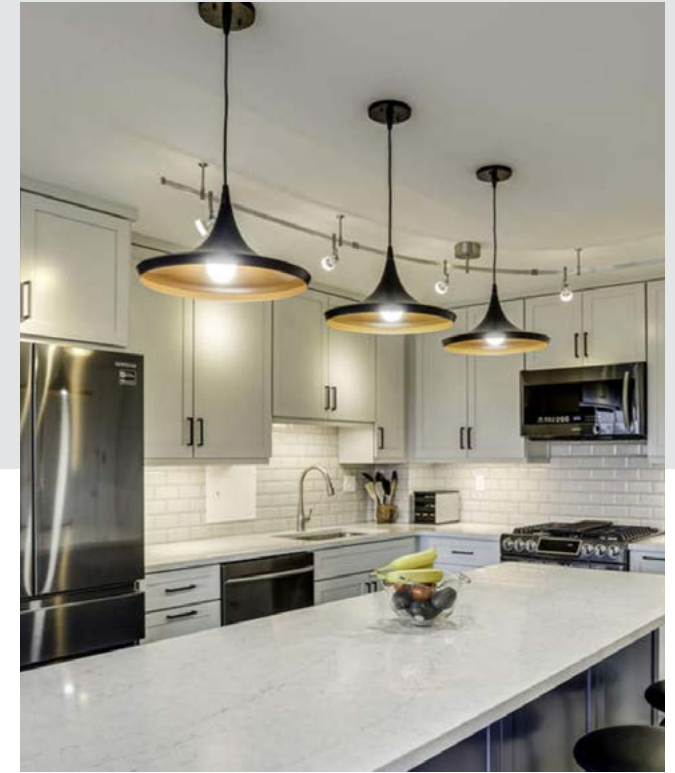
Embracing an Industrial Look

For an edgy yet elegant look, top kitchen designers have fallen in love with the industrial look. Why?

- It's easy to maintain. Less hours spent rubbing out stains and cleaning every little nook in the kitchen
- It's cool. Who does not want to have a kitchen style that keeps the conversation going?
- It's simple. You might up with less to remodel. You can leave the walls bare, install your appliances and cabinetry, and you are good to go.

Aesthetically balanced industrial designs are not only practical and durable but are also timeless. And here is another thing with this style... you can add almost anything to the room without disrupting the design. From reclaimed wood to stainless steel to leather seats, your creativity can set the pace.

The complete look is airy and open, which goes hand in hand with all the time people are spending in their kitchens in 2021.



Decorative Lighting

Lighting is not just about illuminating spaces for easier use or access. Instead, it's a way to impart personality into the kitchen. When people walk into your space for the first time, what do you want them to think or feel? Lighting transforms any room into whatever you want it to be. From our past kitchen remodels, we have noted that pendant lighting takes the cake. It is almost essential for

worktop spaces and brings just enough practicality and beauty to the room. Plus, you can work it in so many ways:

- **Dramatic:** You can have several pendant lights in the workspace for that whoa moment. Your guests will hardly be ready for this one.
- **Daring:** A few black pendant lights will transform your kitchen into an elegant space with a touch of adventure. Dinners under dimmed lights

have never looked so good.

- **Modern:** Industrial pendants are an easy way to give your kitchen a rustic touch if you want a warm industrial look. Go for lights with black accents.

Chandeliers have also not lost their touch and are a great way to amp the entire space with just one fixture. With chandeliers, you have to be careful not to overpower other room features by going too big with the lighting.

Traditional Meets Modern

What happens when you cannot decide between the warmth of traditional styles and the simplicity of contemporary kitchens? You get a transitional kitchen! It allows you to bathe in the coziness of familiar traditional styling while still enjoying the crispness and workability evident in more modern kitchen designs. There is a grey area in design, and we know just how to get this right.

What do transitional styles have in common?

Simple Cabinets: You want to go with simple cabinets that do not subdue other kitchen elements. Low profile is the key here.

Minimal Hardware: The hardware should not also take away from the focal points in the kitchen. Keep the lines clear and seamless.

Blended Accents: Now, this can be a bit tricky. The goal is to find a balance between the decorativeness of traditional kitchens and the minimalism in modern styles. Keeping your accents simple is the way to go here.

More Texture: Your kitchen will mainly feature warm neutrals, and you will end up using beiges and greiges to an extent. But instead of having a bland look, add some texture to give the room some character. Bring on the marble for the backsplash!





Two-Finish Kitchens That Work

Does your kitchen need more visual appeal? Worry not. That is nothing a two-finish kitchen cannot fix! This combining of cabinet finishes has become even more popular in 2021 as people look for more depth and style in their kitchen. Matching cabinets are taking a backseat this year!

In the past, you would choose one hue and stick with it for the top and bottom cabinets. You would even use the same color for the hardware. It worked great with a simple look. Plus, it didn't take a lot of design work to get the job done.



But two-finish kitchens are a whole new and exciting realm. The most popular combinations suggest you:

- Have one color for the island and another for the cabinets; or
- Have one color for base cabinets and another for wall cabinets

In this case, we are leaning more towards the second option for that added

contrast. It's more stylish and visually dynamic compared to the traditional two-finish combinations that more easily blend together. It makes a statement, makes the room feel larger, and even increases your home's resale value.

Are you doing it right? As with any trend, there's such a thing as overdoing it. Strike a balance with the hues such that:

- The tonal variation misses by one color, e.g., a white and gray or white with warm wood; or
- One color that contrasts off the other, e.g., blue with a white

Finally, bring all the hues together by choosing an element that unifies them, e.g., using the same hardware on all the cabinets.

Open Designs

Are you done with the barriers keeping you from your loved ones each time you pop into the kitchen? In 2021, bring down the walls with open concepts! These designs allow you to merge cooking and living spaces to make more way for socializing. You can have an engaging conversation with your loved ones as they catch their shows while you are busy whipping up a meal.

Plus (and here's a winner), they can create more space for your island and allow it to even be more focal than it already is. Besides, you can always make these spaces as lavish as you want by adding luxurious cabinets, countertops, sinks, and eat-in counters. What's not to love about these spaces?





With smart storage and minimalism slowly creeping up on the year, more people are bringing out their sledgehammers, ready to make this design come to life. But before you demolish your walls, what should you consider?

- Walls: As we have seen in open concept designs, storage can be a bit of an issue when you go for a one-wall design. It's the airiest of designs but comes with much less storage.
- Island: The bigger the island, the more storage and landing space you will have and the easier it will be to make the workspace your focal point. You can stash almost anything under the island, from garbage bins to cabinets to drawers down to turntables.
- Lighting: With a primary focal point, you'll want to work with strategic decorative lighting. Also, consider lighting at the tops and bottoms of the cabinets and drawers for more visual effects.

To make the space more communal, make sure you include lots of seating space to accommodate the free flow of conversation.





Darker Floors

To keep up with the spic and span element of a kitchen, you may feel inclined to work with a light-colored floor. But if you want to make a statement, going darker is a serious contender.

Darker kitchen floors bring in the traditional aspect and introduce richness to the overall look. The contrast between the floor and other fixtures in your space will bring out the allure of every element. It will also make the room feel grounded and secure and take away from the sterile, hospital-like aspect of all-white styles.

How can you bring in a dark flooring theme?

- For Contrast: If you've already used lighter fixtures such as cabinets and islands, the dark flooring will bring out the contrast effect. It works with all styles.
- For Uniformity: For a home with dark floors in other rooms, having a dark kitchen floor will only work in unifying the spaces.



Cabinet Accessories

Have you heard of the work triangle? It starts at the fridge, down to the sink, and back to the stove. The alignment of these three elements pretty much sums up how much use you get from your remodel. You can understand then why accessorizing your cabinets would be right up there with organizing your pantry. It makes the work zone more accessible and usable and limits the fuss that goes into meal preparation. So, what are the must-haves for your kitchen cabinets?

- Glass and Vertical Doors: To have a sneak peek of your cabinet items or even create more storage, here are some exciting ideas.
- A Pull-Out Trash Can: Organizing your garbage has never been so easy. Just pop the cans into the cabinets, and you are good to go.
- A Pull-Out Spice Rack: How nice would it be to reach all your oils, spices, and secret jars in one swift move?
- Decorative Project Boxes: When it's time to cook, put the toys and craft supplies away with this fantastic innovation.
- Base Corner Swing Out Shelving: If fitting a traditional lazy susan cabinets won't work, you can store and swing out all your small essentials in the corner cabinet for easy access.
- A Roll-Out: There's no need to fumble when reaching for your pots and pans. With this accessory, you can easily organize your essentials to roll out right to you.





Other cabinet accessory options include:

- Charging Drawers
- Double-Tier Silverware Drawers
- Cookie Sheets & Baking Pan Storage
- A Tray Divider
- A Pull-Out Base Cabinet
- A Pantry Pull-Out
- Deep-Drawer Cabinets
- A Pull-Out Cabinet Step Stool
- A Drawer Peg System
- A Mixer Storage Cabinet
- A Knife Block Drawer
- A Corner Carousel Shelf Cabinet
- A Pots and Pan Peg Board
- A Pull-Out Towel Storage Cabinet
- An Under Sink Cleaning Storage

Since 1952, we have handled kitchen remodels of every shape and size. We understand how each trend can transform your space. Do not hesitate to reach out to us for design and installation guidance.

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