

HUB Design/Build
765 Newtown Road
Villanova, PA 19085
Phone: (610) 688-7475

SUMMER

2005

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DelCY

DelChester Contractor
of the Year

Photo: By James F Wilson/New Urban Challenge



Classic glass-front cabinetry juxtaposed against contemporary stainless steel backsplash tiles gives vibrancy to this kitchen.



Pop, Sizzle or Soothe

It all started with the great room concept—combining kitchen and family room. Now the kitchen space often flows together with the breakfast nook, dining room, family room, home office and media center in one large open floor plan similar to a loft.

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"FLAT BOX" TO FLAT-OUT GORGEOUS

HUB Design/Build is pleased to have received a 2005 DelCY Award in the Whole House Renovation category for a recent project pictured here.

Our clients' home is situated on a picturesque wooded lot, but before renovation the house itself was not worthy of its lovely setting. Described by the owners as "an unattractive flat box," the house exterior was finished with vertical aluminum siding.

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AFTER

Families today are multitasking and informal. They want to be able to cook meals, supervise homework, watch "Extreme Home Makeover" and entertain surrounded by family and friends.

However casual their lifestyle is, homeowners still want their kitchens to be gracious and glamorous. The following trends are hot for 2005:



In this home the dining and living zones integrate seamlessly with the kitchen.

Photos: By James F. Wilson/New Urban Challenge



The meteorite finish on the GE stainless steel appliances makes this an easy-care kitchen. Colorful pottery displayed on open shelving add happy hues to the mix.

- Stainless steel pro-style appliances continue to be the mainstay of the kitchen. Practical new finishes, such as the GE meteorite finish, resist fingerprints. Sub-Zero introduced a classy stainless steel glass-fronted refrigerator/freezer at the 2005 Kitchen and Bath Show in May. As a popular alternative, adding paneled fronts to refrigerators and dishwashers allow them to integrate into kitchen cabinetry.

- A new array of smaller kitchen appliances are turning heads everywhere: speed-cooking ovens that give quality food in less time, steam ovens, espresso makers with cup warmers below, beverage coolers. The list is endless.

- More cooks in the kitchen require multiple work centers. Second sinks, refrigerators and dishwashers are becoming the norm. Second appliances are often installed as separate drawers, conveniently located under the counter in an island or elsewhere. Pot filler faucets mounted above the stovetop are a fabulous addition.

- Kitchen cabinetry is designed to look like separate pieces of furniture, with the use of different, yet coordinating, finishes. Glass doors or open shelving accentuate this effect and add interest. Even white cabinets are making a comeback. The trend is for clean lines

and, in modern-style kitchens especially, the emphasis is on horizontal. Handles are long and lean, with brushed nickel being the current finish of choice.

- Cabinet organization systems are becoming more important than ever, along with full extension glides on drawers for maximum use of space. Blum offers a self-closing drawer glide for quiet, non-slamming operation.

- Granite countertops are still big. Natural quartz surfacing is gaining much attention due to the ever-increasing color and design options, and ease of care. Silestone's latest award-winning product is a quartz surfacing with built-in Microban antimicrobial product protection. Concrete countertops offer a

refreshingly natural and earthy appearance, and can be embedded with found-objects for visual interest. Mixed surface materials, such as granite and natural butcher block, used together on countertops make a stylish statement.

- Lighting is critical for illuminating kitchen work surfaces, highlighting cabinetry and decorative objects, as well as creating a mood. Unique pendants or chandeliers installed over the island add an imaginative flair to the room.

- Punch it up with colorful tiles, paint, faux finishes, fabrics and accessories. Neutral tones with a splash of color make your kitchen pop, sizzle or soothe in 2005.



Photo: Courtesy of Rev-A-Shelf
(www.rev-a-shelf.com)

The pull-down shelving system by Rev-A-Shelf features a gas-assisted lifting/lowering mechanism.

Down on the Farm



Photo: Courtesy of Herbeau (www.herbeau.com)

1 Copper is a metal that develops its luxurious character with age. Almost anything that comes into contact with copper, including water, will cause it to oxidize and change color unevenly. The full, rich color combinations that eventually develop in about a year's time are called a patina. Prolonged contact with heat over 300°F should be avoided, or some distortion to the sink can occur. Copper will scratch, but the scratches do not rust, and they usually can be polished out. Clean a copper sink regularly with a soft cloth.



Photo: Courtesy of Green Mountain Soapstone (www.greenmountainsoapstone.com)

2 Soapstone is a beautiful natural stone that is practically indestructible. Impervious to heat or stain, it has been used for centuries for fireplace hearths, wood stoves, kitchen sinks and countertops. Acids and alkalis will not etch soapstone, and therefore it is also used for sinks and work surfaces in laboratories and science classrooms. It is recommended that a protective coat of mineral oil be applied to soapstone sinks upon installation to enhance the luster and color of the stone. Subsequent coats should be re-applied monthly. Use a damp cloth with cleanser as needed for daily cleanings.

3 Brass is a yellow-colored alloy of copper and zinc. It can be given many lovely finishes—from antique brass to polished gold. It is important to maintain a brass sink for long-lasting appearance and service. For regular cleaning, use a soft cloth and mild detergent, and then rinse thoroughly and wipe dry. For removing stains and tarnish, use a good quality brass cleaner and afterwards polish the sink with a soft cloth. Brass is durable, but it can be scratched and dented, so care should be taken when bringing utensils to the sink.



3



Photo: Courtesy of Elite Bath (www.elitebath.com)

2

An apron-front sink, or farm sink, reminiscent of those found in historic farmhouses or in cottages of the French countryside, brings to a kitchen a wonderful, nostalgic warmth and charm. In addition, it can be thought of as very utilitarian, since the basin is generous and easily able to handle large pots and pans. Traditional materials—such as copper, soapstone, brass, and cast iron—are still being used for apron-front sinks today, along with newer materials, including stainless steel. □

WELL WITHIN YOUR REACH

Having a well-organized and convenient kitchen is more important today than it has ever been. Busy families appreciate having items easy to locate and close at hand, but at the same time they want plenty of storage space that makes it fast and simple to tuck clutter out of sight.

Some of the current trends in kitchen organization are:

TALL CABINETS that reach to the ceiling make use of every inch of space. Rev-A-Shelf's unique pull-down shelving system makes these high-rise cabinets easily accessible.

APPLIANCE GARAGES nestled under wall cabinets hide larger appliances behind tambour doors until needed, but make them easily accessible when the tambour door is raised.

DRAWERS are preferred to cabinets for under-counter storage. No one enjoys fumbling around in a dark cabinet to reach the cooking pot stored on the shelf in back. Full-extension drawers allow the entire depth of the cabinet to be utilized and save the step of first having to open cabinet doors.

DRAWER DIVIDERS organize cutlery and other items. Custom designed drawer space can be made shallow enough so that items are stored one deep for easy viewing. This can be a great solution for spice bottles, storing them on their sides with the labels visible, rather than stacking them.

RECYCLING UNITS with separate bins for sorting can be installed next to the sink (concealed behind cabinet doors) for easy access during clean-up.

OPEN SHELVES on the side of an island, or at the end of a cabinet run, provide storage space for frequently used items and add a furniture look to the kitchen cabinetry. □



FLAT-OUT GORGEOUS

(continued from page 1)

stucco painted an unfortunate orange and plain three-tab roof shingles. It was definitely showing its age—the stucco on the chimney was falling off, the deck was narrow enough to be a catwalk, and the original windows were still in place. On the inside, the powder room was so small that our clients avoided asking their guests to use it, and the laundry room was inconveniently located in the basement with the 40-year-old boiler.

The HUB Design/Build team met with our clients to plan a complete whole-house makeover. Attractive vinyl shake siding now adds style to the exterior. The existing, as well as the new stucco was painted with a top quality masonry paint to match the siding. All the single-glazed windows were replaced with white aluminum exterior clad double-glazed wood windows. Replacing the windows and siding at the same time allowed us to add interesting exterior trim details. A new roof and 6" gutters and 3"x 4" downspouts were installed. The new deck, handrails and all exterior trim is made with composite materials that make the exterior of this home very low maintenance.

An elegant front door with sidelights was installed, as were new garage doors. All the exterior light fixtures were replaced and some were added.

The addition at the front of the house contains a mudroom and a sizeable powder room. The added space allowed us to widen the hallway through to the front foyer. The foyer closet was reconfigured and the old powder room has regained its usefulness as a pantry. The laundry was moved into a reconfigured closet on the second floor.



BEFORE



BEFORE

Our clients continue to marvel over the fact that they have a gorgeous new home...and they didn't have to move! □