

# Today's New Kitchen Trends



Lynne Graves Stephenson

With the kitchen becoming the new family room, serving as the place to gather not only for meal preparation, but also for conversation, entertainment, business and homework – it is an exciting time to be thinking of designing or remodeling your kitchen. Rich, luscious finishes offer plenty of eye-candy, while innovative high-tech appliances provide the desired “wow” factor.

Cabinet finishes are moving toward warmer and darker hues, often with glazes. Cherry and maple remain the dominant wood species. Clear or frosted glass door inserts and elegant decorative hardware elevate the cabinets to a new level of fashion. Increasingly the lines are clean and simple, returning to square traditional door styles as opposed to cathedral styling. This trend has been influenced by Euro-style frameless cabinetry – which is rapidly growing in favor – with its modern streamlined looks and long lean hardware.

Granite continues to be the number one choice for countertops, while quartz surfacing is gaining in popularity as more color choices are becoming available. Honed finishes are coming on strong, but the polished finish is still the first choice. Glass and

concrete are intriguing alternatives for the more adventuresome homeowner.

Colors are in the direction of rich browns and red/oranges, which are well complemented by the new oil-rubbed bronze finish on fixtures. Even though stainless steel remains the top choice for appliances, increasingly other colors are being explored. The oil-rubbed bronze finish is available now on major appliances as well as faucets, making a stunning fashion statement.

Taking center stage is the range, a reinvention of the traditional kitchen hearth. Its crowning glory is the handsome ventilation hood, often with a glamorous tile accent piece on the backsplash below. In addition to multiple sinks and ovens, the trend is for strategically placing dishwasher drawers, refrigerator drawers, and warming drawers in separate “work zones,” so that several people can easily use the kitchen at the same time. Other current “must-have” appliances are wine cabinets, built-in coffeemakers, microwave and steam ovens. In addition, homeowners are bringing more technology into the kitchen with computer stations, high-definition TV screens tied to DVD players and stereo components, and lighting and security systems.



Lynne Graves Stephenson and her husband Mark, are co-owners of HUB Design/Build located in Villanova. HUB Design/Build is a full-service professional design and remodeling firm, which has operated in the area for over 16 years. Lynne is a member of NKBA. She also belongs to NARI, the National Association of Remodeling Industry, and holds two certifications: Certified Remodeler and Certified Kitchen and Bath Remodeler. Lynne is currently serving a 2-year term as President of the DelChester NARI Chapter.

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