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Hot or Not

Current trends in kitchen design.

BY MICHELE LERNER

IF 2019 IS YOUR YEAR TO SPRUCE UP THE KITCHEN or to completely overhaul it, you may want to pay attention to what local designers have to say about current trends. While a black-and-white kitchen is timeless, recent kitchen designs can be inspiring.

IN: COLORFUL CABINETS

Colorful cabinets are one of the biggest design trends.

"This playful trend is not showing any signs of slowing down," says Elena Eskandari, a designer and interiors specialist with Case Design/Remodeling in Falls Church. "Blue is still the most popular color, whether it's bright blue or deep navy, like these base cabinets in a kitchen we designed in Annandale."



IN: SEAMLESS DESIGN

A desire for an organized kitchen with designated space for utensils and small appliances is constant, says Michael Winn, the owner of Winn Design + Build in Falls Church. Even larger appliances are hidden from view or made to look like drawers, as in this kitchen by Case Design/Remodeling, also in Falls Church.

"We're paneling more dishwashers and refrigerators for a seamless kitchen design," says Allie Mann, a designer and senior interiors specialist with Case.



IN: TALL BACKSPASHES

Traditional four-inch backsplashes are becoming a thing of the past, replaced by tile that covers the entire wall between the base and wall cabinets.

In some cases, such as this Arlington kitchen designed by Michael Winn, the backsplash becomes a feature wall designed around floating shelves and a dramatic range hood.

The owners of this Arlington home wanted a family-friendly, practical house. "We built in banquette seating under the breakfast-area window with a scrubbable Sunbrella sand-colored fabric," says Pamela Harvey, owner of Pamela Harvey Interiors in Oak Hill. "We added color with aqua bistro chairs that work for indoor or outdoor seating and can be hosed off."



"Stainless-steel is timeless, easy to use, and develops a nice patina that complements dark cabinets," says Julia Walter, owner of Boffi Georgetown, who installed a contemporary stainless-steel counter in this McLean kitchen.

Modern slab doors look clean, but they don't have to be boring, says Eskandari. You can add texture to the cabinets or mix cabinets of two different colors in the same kitchen.



"Open shelves provide the same amount of storage as wall cabinets, and they make the space feel more open and airy by breaking up the cabinetry," she says.

"Not only do they provide additional storage for occasional dishes and increased countertop space, they're a great place to incorporate additional appliances, such as integrated wine dispensers that keep wine at a perfect temperature, like in this Falls Church kitchen," says Case Design's Mann. +

