

SIZZLING

STYLE

{ANNUAL KITCHEN TRENDS REVIEW}



BRENDAN CHARTERS



Today's multipurpose kitchen is the nerve centre of the home. It needs to perform when it's time to prepare food then quickly and easily convert to the most beautiful space in the home. One that is fit for entertaining and impressing guests and also provides a spot to sit and read the paper, do homework, and table important family matters. It's a lot to ask.

Although these spaces are the absolute focus of the renovation projects we perform at Eurodale Developments, they often steal the majority of the budget from whole-home remodels.

To help you assess your own kitchen renovation, I asked the group of experts who work on our kitchen renovation projects what they see as the biggest trends in kitchens for 2016. Here's what they had to say.

FIRST PAGE: PHOTOGRAPHY BY PETER SELLAR
SECOND & THIRD PAGES: PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANDREW SNOW

ABOVE: Cabinet cladding hides the large sub-zero fridge and hood fan, while the heather grey island and hutch gently deviate from the all-white norm

LEFT: Pastel green uppers and wood-grain lower cabinets add interest, flat-panel doors and Cambria quartz counter and backsplash complete the contemporary look

RIGHT: Wired for concealed speakers and automation including a power-recessing hood fan



{THE EXPERTS}

Jim Cunningham

Architectural Designer
Eurodale Developments
Jim's role is laying out general space plans

Instead of Stainless Built-in, panelized or hidden are the terms used when talking about appliances. We look to make them disappear when not in use, so the focus can be on the cleanliness and appearance of the cabinetry, rather than focusing on the refrigerator. A shift to coloured stainless appliances is developing in response to the tiring long-time trend of stainless.

Hoodies While we are concealing microwaves, ovens, dishwashers and refrigerators, the focus has blossomed to the cooktop or range with more emphasis on the ventilation hood. This is where we see the homeowners' style preferences shine. Large and pronounced, sleek and concealed, cabinet clad or exposed metals are all ways that clients are having fun with the spaces and drawing attention to the cooking area.

Wired Automation and control continue to trend higher in our design decisions. Charging or mounting of hand-held devices to maintain a clean and sleek environment, speakers and automation of lighting and appliances with smartphone control are perfect for the entertainment wow-factor and generally make running the kitchen easier—something we can all benefit from. Preheating the oven for that pizza party can now take place while the host is in the cab heading home, reducing stress and the wait-time.

Laura Thornton

Principal Designer
Thornton Design
Laura assists clients with material selections, styles and colours

Colour The infamous white kitchen has dominated projects over the last decade. Today, people want to inject a little personality and life and warmth into the kitchen, but not too quickly. Cabinets featuring natural wood started the trend. Now pastel colours—



Colour,
comfort and
social bliss...

soft greys, blues and greens—are flooding project islands and, in some instances, darker hues like navy, black and charcoal are making a stronger statement. Gold hardware is also pushing out the more typical chrome finish as the new kitchen bling. Gold sets off nicely against these colours. **Open for Business** In many urban areas, the old small-segmented kitchen spaces delivered cramped



quarters for families and their guests. In these homes, it makes sense to open kitchens to the dining or family rooms. However, in larger homes, kitchens can be closed off from other living spaces because casual sitting areas can be integrated into the kitchen for social interaction. As a result, the separate dining room offers that formal holiday gathering experience when the chef has made both a fantastic feast and a horrible mess in the kitchen.

Statement Lighting A kitchen needs to be bright so we can see what we are preparing, eating and to ensure we don't cut ourselves while working. Recessed pot lights and LED under- and in-cabinet lights do that well. But with the proliferation of open-concept kitchens and islands as prep and social gathering spots, the pendant lights overhead need to be impactful. These accents can really define the style intention—from glam to concealed, these fixtures perform double duty—form and function.

ABOVE: Navy blue island, brass-finish pendants and large, comfy stools dress this great room-style kitchen

LEFT: Brass hardware is making a comeback, seen here paired with matching island pendants

Jimmy Zoras

Owner

Distinctive by Design Fine Cabinetry Jimmy works through the intricate cabinet details with manufacturers

Revisiting the '80s Not exactly going back in time, some of the style trends from the '80s are showing up in new projects, with a slight twist. Visible brass hardware is replacing the chrome and brushed-nickel finishes that have dominated the last five years. However, in 2016, the brass has a brushed finish, not gleaming as in past. **Countertops** Quartz countertops continue to dominate the scene as the manufactured natural stone styles have continued to evolve at a feverish pace. The desire to replicate the look of mined slabs is evolving. These stain-free, non-porous and environ-

mentally friendly slabs are being used in both counters and backsplashes for a more dressed and unified finish. Cambria, a leading quartz supplier, now has over 100 slab styles that deliver a consistency in finish. With mined slabs, the samples can vary dramatically from the actual slabs. Imagine the look and feel of marble without the fear factor.

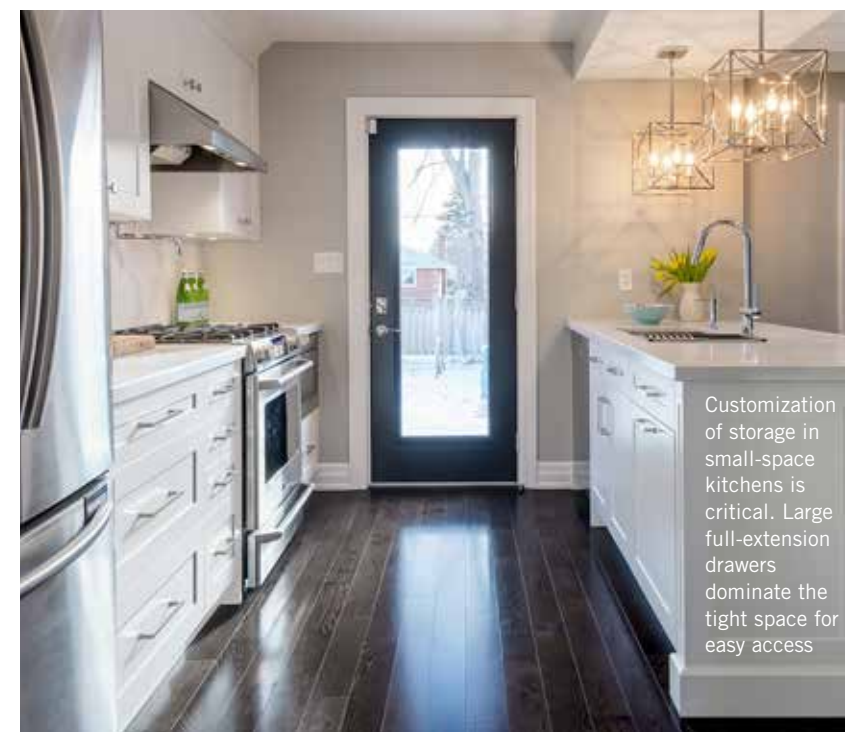
Get Organized It's easier to relax when a space is clutter-free and items are easily accessible, and that fosters culinary creativity. Drawers now dominate over doors and, where doors are present, slide-out shelves, drawers and racks ensure we can find the stuff at the back before it gets mouldy. The use of pop-up hinge hardware instead of typical doors has made moving about the space easier, with fewer concussions from banging heads on open doors. Appliance centres hide the counter appliances to reduce the clutter and cords on countertops. New style full-extension

shelves have surpassed the old Lazy Susan, and garbage, recycling and compost cabinet inserts organize waste and reduce the smell and mess common with the old grocery bag holder under the sink.

{THE BOTTOM LINE}

The kitchen needs to be durable as much as it also needs to look great. Naturally, it must function effectively through the variety of demands that is required of such a multi-use space.

When planning your own kitchen renovation, take the time to consider how you intend to make use of the space. Decisions about styling can come later. While door styles, colours and finishes change like fashion, a space that is carefully planned and professionally built with expert craftsmanship and quality materials will serve your family and guests comfortably for many years to come, regardless of the next hot trend. ♦



Brendan Charters is co-owner of Toronto Design-Build Firm Eurodale Developments Inc. 2014 BILD Renovator of the Year. Visit eurodale.ca or follow Brendan on Twitter @EurodaleHomes