

Modern World

KITCHENS AND BATHS ON THE CUTTING EDGE

For the rooms we agonize over most, Dwell presents expert advice, product ideas, and real-life results, with a timely focus on velvety matte-black finishes and space-saving fixtures and appliances.

PRODUCED BY
Dora Vanette



DWELL REPORTS

LIKE KITCHENS THEMSELVES, GOOD KNIVES ARE BOTH PRACTICAL AND ATTRACTIVE. WE ASKED A SUSHI CHEF TO DEMO BEST MADE COMPANY'S JAPANESE CHEF KNIVES, A HANDSOME SET OF BLADES THAT MARRY STAINLESS AND BLUE STEEL. SEE THE ACTION AT DWELL.COM/SUSHI-KNIFE-VIDEO.

PHOTO: JAMIE CHUNG



DESIGNER INSIGHT

THINK OF THE BIG PICTURE FIRST

ANDREA MICHAELSON
Andrea Michaelson Design
Beverly Hills, California

“For kitchen design, I think about layout and flow first, and only then about the materials. I focus on large items such as cabinetry and appliances and allow the rest of the details to unfold as I’m working. I always make sure to incorporate details that will distinguish the design, such as a splash detail, unique storage solutions, or new ways to use a material—for instance, creating cabinet faces and doors out of reclaimed wood and metals. I also always try to integrate a counterpoint, a beautiful, unexpected ‘aha!’ moment that brings a little soul to the space.” ■

1
LITZE ARTICULATING FAUCET WITH INDUSTRIAL HANDLE BY BRIZO
FROM \$732

A matte-black and gold-tone faucet by Brizo features a dual-jointed articulating arm with a semi-flexible hose and a convenient magnetic docking system.

2
BUILT-IN REFRIGERATOR BY BLUESTAR
FROM \$9,850

In addition to its large capacity and commercial-level performance, BlueStar’s Built-in refrigerator offers unrivaled customization, with more than 750 colors to choose from, plus metal trim and door swing options.

3
MATTE-BLACK STAINLESS STEEL GAS SINGLE-OVEN RANGE BY LG
\$1,249

LG’s large-capacity oven boasts a fingerprint- and smudge-resistant finish, as well as intuitive glass controls that are as easy to operate as they are to wipe clean.

4
DEDICA DELUXE MANUAL ESPRESSO MACHINE AND CAPPUCCINO MAKER BY DE’LONGHI
\$350

Housed in a slim body with stainless steel accents, the professional-grade De’Longhi espresso and cappuccino maker promises a barista-quality cup.



2



3



4



DESIGNER INSIGHT

IT'S OK TO SHOW OFF A LITTLE

BARBARA HILL
Barbara Hill Design
Houston, Texas

"I love minimal kitchens and bathrooms. I always try to take down upper cabinets and replace them with interesting open shelving. My go-to material is steel and I always try to avoid the built-in look. With open shelving, not only can you showcase a great collection of white dishes, but you can mix in vintage showpieces or even small artworks.

"In bathrooms, I love a prettily shaped freestanding tub. Bathrooms should have a sexy feel. I always want to bring romance into the bathroom—I usually place a small table next to the tub for bubbles, salts, and champagne. I also like an unusual chandelier over the tub with a dimmer." ■

1
24" INTEGRATED COLUMN REFRIGERATOR AND FREEZER BY SUB-ZERO
\$6,665

With a refrigerator and freezer hidden behind one solid door, Sub-Zero's 24-inch combination column looks sleek while fitting in the tightest nooks.

2
iMOVE BY KESSEBÖHMER
FROM \$399

The pull-down iMove system goes inside hard-to-reach wall units, offering easier access to items. The shelf comes down at an angle, then locks automatically, freeing both your hands to load and unload.

3
24" INDUCTION COOKTOP BY FISHER & PAYKEL
\$1,399

Fisher & Paykel's 24-inch cooktop has four cooking zones that can be bridged to create two SmartZones. The versatile appliance comes in a 12-, 30-, and 36-inch version as well.

4
ZERA FOOD RECYCLER BY WLABS OF WHIRLPOOL
\$1,199

Soon to launch, the fully automated Zera Food Recycler turns food scraps into home-made fertilizer within 24 hours. Measuring 11 by 22 by 33.75 inches, the unit slips into narrow spots.



ILLUSTRATION: PETER OUMANSKI

WE COMBED DWELL.COM FOR STANDOUT KITCHENS AND BATHS POSTED BY OUR COMMUNITY.

1

DEERTRACK LANE
JEFF JORDAN ARCHITECTS
IRVINGTON, NEW YORK

Architect Jeff Jordan typically prefers to limit the materials in his kitchens to a handful of compatible finishes and almost never uses more than two types of wood. However, in renovating a midcentury home in a suburb north of New York City, he decided to integrate oak, cypress, walnut, pine, and cedar in the same space, giving the kitchen a rich yet balanced texture.

2

GV HOUSE
THIS IS IT
GIV'ATAYIM, ISRAEL

While renovating a 1980s kitchen in Israel, architecture studio This is IT employed a selection of cool, neutral materials to provide the residents with some relief from the strong Mediterranean summer sun. Gray terrazzo, black granite, concrete, steel, and glass predominate, while brass details are interspersed sparingly throughout the home to create a running thread.

3

ART AND LIGHT
ANDREW MIKHAEL ARCHITECT
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

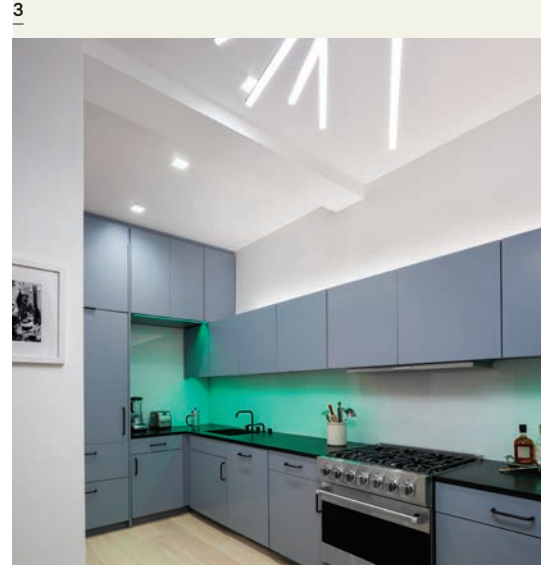
A common phenomenon in big city apartments is having a front door that opens right into the kitchen, making the cooking area the default spot for guests to congregate at parties. Architect Andrew Mikhael embraced the kitchen-as-entertaining-hub concept with multicolor LED lights, which allow his Manhattan clients to change the room's mood with one click.

4

LOS PALMOS
SVK INTERIOR DESIGN
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

In a San Francisco kitchen conceived by SVK Interior Design, rich elm accents are paired with matte-white laminate cabinets, gray-veined Caesarstone countertops, and show-stopping white Heath tile with dark grout. The designers decided to go hardware-free by installing push-to-release mechanisms on all the cabinet doors and drawers, making the materials the focal point.

PHOTOS | Add a Home

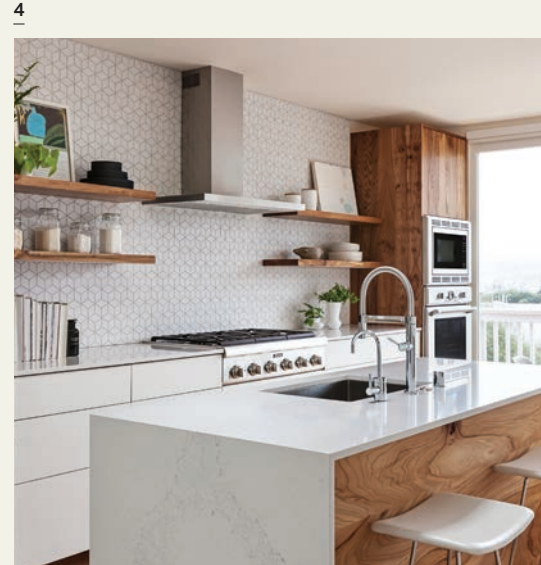


THE CREATIVE DIRECTOR OF NEW YORK APPLIANCE SHOWROOM AJ MADISON TALKS ABOUT HOW SOCIAL MEDIA HAS RESHAPED THE MARKET—AND MADE EVERYONE THINK THEY CAN BE A CHEF.

RACHELLE LOUIS
Creative Director, AJ Madison

KITCHENS AND BATHS

2



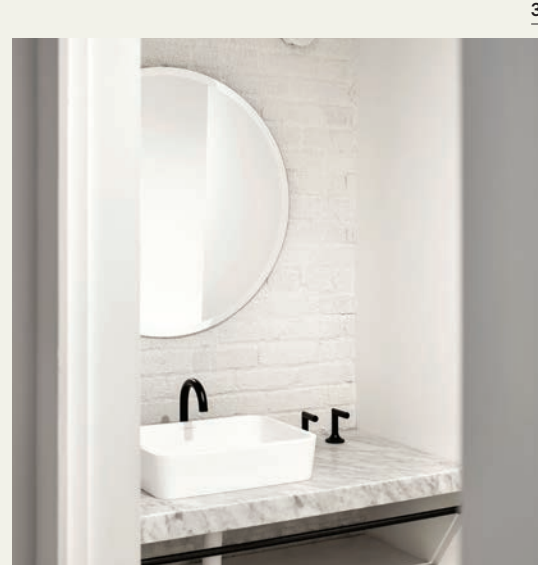
HOW HAVE THE LOOK AND PURPOSE OF THE KITCHEN EVOLVED IN RECENT YEARS?

There is no longer just one look for a kitchen. People are increasingly using this space to showcase their personality. Since it's become common to share your interiors on social media, most people don't want to have the same white cabinets and marble countertops as everyone else.

HOW ELSE HAS SOCIAL MEDIA SHAKEN THINGS UP?

Similar to the way websites such as Travelocity have made people want to travel more, Tastemade and BuzzFeed's Tasty are inspiring us to cook more. When you see dishes presented in such a format you begin to think, "I can do this too." The next thing you know, you're trying to make a pumpkin chili bowl out of a cutout pumpkin. More broadly, social media makes different hobbies feel more accessible.

PHOTOS: GREGORY MAKA (1), MATAN KATZ (2), BRAD DICKSON (3), MICHELE LEE WILSON (4)

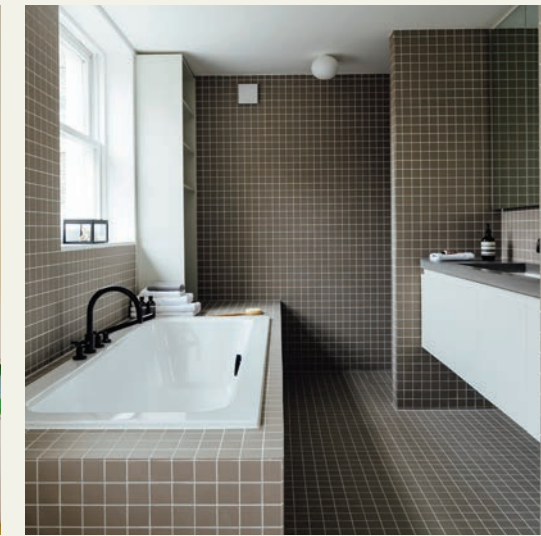


It makes people want to try more things. In the past, cooking seemed like something you had to go to school for, and now you realize you just need a passion for it. As a result, people are becoming more aware of the appliances they are using. Social media opens the door to wanting to learn more about cooking. It turns the process from a chore into a craft.

SO CONSUMERS ARE BECOMING SAVVIER AND MORE PROFICIENT. HOW ARE MANUFACTURERS RESPONDING?

Because people want to cook restaurant-style food, professional appliances are becoming more common in homes. A lot of brands are adapting high-end appliances to work in compact spaces or adding convertible zones to their products. For instance, column refrigeration allows people to customize refrigerator and freezer widths and pair them in a way

PHOTOS: NICK ROCHOWSKI (1), TIM CROCKER (2), ADRIEN WILLIAMS (3), LEONID FURMANSKY (4)



that works best for each individual kitchen. Some manufacturers, like BlueStar, offer different cooktop configurations that allow you to switch out the burners based on what you're cooking.

HOW IS DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY PENETRATING THE KITCHEN?

The idea of a refrigerator talking to you still sounds like science fiction to some people, but the same thing could have been said about our phones ten years ago. A similar shift is happening with kitchen appliances. And the idea of the connected home will only continue to grow. Samsung's Family Hub refrigerator is a good example. It features a large LCD screen where you can mirror your television, moving seamlessly between watching something in your living room to watching it in your kitchen. You can also surf the web and order groceries on it. You can even order Grubhub if you don't feel like cooking. ■

PHOTOS | Add a Home

1

CHEVRON HOUSE
ANDY MARTIN ARCHITECTURE
LONDON, ENGLAND

Through the dramatic use of color, London studio Andy Martin Architecture revived a brick Edwardian house for a contemporary art collector. To keep the eye from being overwhelmed, the firm left the walls a neutral off-white while highlighting key details like built-ins with bold hues. The bathroom, accented in lime green, baby blue, and lemon yellow, is a highlight.

2

STANHOPE GARDENS
CARL TURNER ARCHITECTS
LONDON, ENGLAND

In designing the bathroom of a West London home, architect Robert Guest of Carl Turner Architects covered the floor and walls in square tiles to give the space a graphic quality, almost like grid paper. "In some ways, it feels like an inhabited drawing," Guest says. The basin top is hard-wearing concrete. A small Glo Ball light provides a delicate counterpoint to the tough surfaces.

3

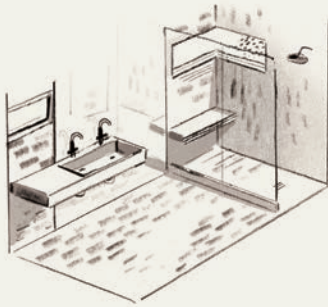
SAINT-LAURENT APARTMENT
ATELIER BARDA
MONTREAL, QUEBEC

When a fashion company asked Atelier Barda to transform a lofty, 1,150-square-foot apartment in Montreal's up-and-coming Mile End district into a place to host out-of-town clients, the designers responded with a gutsy black-and-white scheme. In the bathroom, a marble countertop and white-washed brick walls are paired with sleek ebony taps.

4

NORRIS HOUSE
DAVEY MCEATHRON ARCHITECTURE
AUSTIN, TEXAS

To introduce morning light into a master bathroom in Austin, architect Davey McEathron had to punch a skylight through the vaulted ceiling because the exterior walls face south and west. For the clients' large dog, he incorporated a separate washing station in the shower. The cabinets are painted Indigo by Sherwin Williams to provide a pop of color in the otherwise white space.



DESIGNER INSIGHT

DON'T FORGET THE TOUCH TEST

FRANCINE MONACO
D'Aquino Monaco
New York, New York

“When designing bathrooms, I’m often trying to create a jewel-box experience—you open the door and find yourself transported to a pristine little world. To achieve this, I strive for a seamless design from wall to floor. We’ve relied on tile of standard sizes for many years, but now there are so many different options for scale change within the bathroom. Plumbing fittings are the jewelry that makes the room feel more intimate, since the touch and feel of those fittings is ultimately what you’re engaging with. We’ve recently been using these wonderful cast glass faucets by Fantini that feel warm to the touch and have beautiful colors that you can use to animate other, more natural materials such as stone.” ■

1
TRIM SET IN CUSTOM MONTREAL BLACK FINISH BY AQUABRASS \$869

Aquabross recently introduced Montreal Black, a smooth finish that is plated rather than painted for durability. It’s seen here on the Demi-Totem 1/2-inch thermostatic shower valve trim set.

2
FONTANE BIANCHE SHOWERHEAD BY SALVATORI + FANTINI FROM \$1,707

Elisa Ossino’s bath collection for the Italian manufacturers Fantini and Salvatori is named after a white-sand beach town in Sicily, but it features an elegant, midnight-black rain showerhead.

3
TRAY BY VIPP \$95

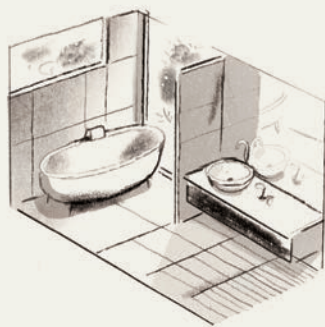
Following the success of Vipp’s matte-black soap dispenser, the Danish company introduced a sleek 13.4-inch-diameter tray. Though it’s meant for serving, the disc’s slip-resistant surface is well-suited to holding washroom accessories, too.

4
SHROPSHIRE TUB BY VICTORIA + ALBERT FROM \$4,688

A dapper matte-black finish adds a contemporary edge to the Victorian-style, claw-footed Shropshire bathtub produced by Victoria + Albert, a British company best known for its freestanding basins.



ILLUSTRATION: PETER OUMANSKI



DESIGNER INSIGHT

LIGHTING MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

CLINTON CUDDINGTON
Measured Architecture Inc.
Vancouver, British Columbia

“Bathrooms are often designed with only functionality in mind, but they provide really interesting opportunities. They can be seen as moments of reprieve from the rest of the house, so they can be designed with a separate narrative.

“When designing bathrooms, we think about ways to include tile in the space that doesn’t read as appliqué. We will often look to work monolithically with tiles throughout the entire room—whether we’re using simple subway tile or handmade Fireclay tile. Another thing that we do is place oversized objects in the room. We often use full-wall mirror surfaces that cover much of the room—sometimes attaching lighting fixtures onto the mirror itself.

“The right lighting is important. You don’t want a residential bathroom to look like an institutional environment. Since bathrooms often utilize cold materials like marble and tile, coupling them with warm lighting helps soften the space.” ■

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PRODUCTS | Small Spaces

KITCHENS AND BATHS

1

AXOR STARCK GREEN 2-JET HANDSHOWER BY HANSGROHE FROM \$280

Conceived by Philippe Starck and equipped with 134 no-clog spray channels and two spray modes, AXOR’s Green 2-Jet Handshower merges state-of-the-art engineering with streamlined design.

2

43” SIMONE SOAKING TUB BY SIGNATURE HARDWARE FROM \$2,985

With a deep basin and integrated seat, the 43-inch-diameter brushed stainless steel Simone tub allows full-body immersion. Massaging air jets are available as an optional add-on.

3

WP.FO POWDER SINK BY ALAPE \$2,200

Alape’s WP.FO Powder sink is almost a perfect cube, with each side measuring 14 to 15 inches. Its body houses a small cabinet that features a push-to-open door made of MDF wood with a smooth silk-matte finish.

4

YPPERLIG MIRROR BY HAY FOR IKEA FROM \$13

Part of a collection of more than 60 products designed by Copenhagen-based cult brand Hay for Swedish giant IKEA, the Ypperlig mirror and shelf provide maximum functionality in a highly compact form.



ILLUSTRATION: PETER OUMANSKI