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Contemporary cabinetry

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Choosing contemporary style also means choosing high-tech accessories that guarantee superior levels of efficiency: new power outlets recessed into the top, a very attractive cooktop with burners built into the top, and the Orizzonte illuminated magnetic glass wall panel, which is available in Prestige White, together with the Allinea satin finish steel midway accessories Photo courtesy of Cuisines Modena

With a more educated consumer base and changing trends in design, creating a dream kitchen is a much different process than it was a decade ago. What hasn't changed, however, is the fact that cabinetry remains one of the most integral parts of the overall look and feel of any kitchen.

And with a seemingly endless range of available materials, colours, and layouts, homeowners today are crafting their kitchens down the smallest detail.

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"The kitchen is the central meeting place of a home," said Olivier Proulx, owner of Cuisines Modena in N.D.G. "Consumers used to approach us with magazine clippings, but social media platforms like Instagram, Pinterest and Houzz are now the primary source of our clients' kitchen inspiration — and it has really sparked an interest in cabinetry, because people are much more aware of the trends and the fact that investing in a beautiful kitchen is something that increases the value of their home dramatically, when it's done wisely."

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Interestingly, the costs of creating a new kitchen have come down in the last several years.

"Consumers used to spend much more on solid wood kitchen cabinets, which were the best possible option for many years but times have changed," Proulx said. "Many products that we're using today have characteristics that make them much more user and environmentally friendly, in addition to being less costly."



Modularity is a key feature in the element built up using the new Scavolini Fluida wall system and in the Multiplex island with Prestige White glass doors, Blanco Zeus quartz worktops and Vintage Oak veneered table top. With exclusive design, in combination with Tetrax the Multiplex island epitomizes a new kitchen lifestyle.

Many new products have appeared on the market and consumers are increasingly more open to different materials and trends.

“I’ve noticed a preference toward lacquered or slightly more matte finishes, especially for buyers with children,” said Daniela Lamorte, residential real estate broker with M Immobilier.

“People still want a polished look, but high gloss, while it looks sleek and impressive, is not the most practical from a maintenance standpoint. Fingerprints are a constant concern.”

But soft-close doors and drawers are a must-have nowadays, she added.

“Once a novelty, they’ve now become the norm as homeowners redo or retrofit their cabinets,” Lamorte said.



“We’re also seeing much more modern and streamlined looks and covered appliances in both kitchen and bathroom design,” Proulx said. “Our new kitchen collections include sliding pocket doors that hide kitchen appliances, and in the bathroom washers and dryers are concealed behind doors, too. In fact, last year Scavolini launched a new collection called Laundry Space that helps create an organized laundry room while maintaining an elegant design.”

In addition to these trends, manufacturers are also getting creative with mixed materials, and responding to the demand for more sustainably crafted designs.

“We’re now seeing eco-sustainable and bacteria-resistant materials like Biomalta, leather, concrete-look eco-wood, and tempered glass for doors,” Proulx said.

“Integrated lighting into kitchen cabinets has also become a very important feature in the design process and an intricate part of the final result.”



Scavolini's Laundry Space collection, with its combination of the appliance unit (housing the washing machine and dryer) and the storage cupboard with the Fluida wall system, in a corner configuration and fitted with bottom-hinged flap doors and baskets, is the perfect solution for managing all your cleaning and washing essentials.

Fashion designers, too, have started to pay attention to the kitchen industry. For instance, Scavolini has collaborations with Diesel, Ora-Ito, and Giugaro, to name a few.


"These designers' exclusive, signature designs can make your kitchen stand out," Proulx said. "For example, the Japanese designer Nendo designed a system with ceramic bowls for storage, adding a unique touch to the space."

Aside from changing looks and trends, new standards are also being set in terms of the manufacturing processes and facilities that produce cabinets. Responding to demands from clients, many manufacturers are adopting more eco-friendly approaches to creating their products.

"For example, our supplier, Scavolini, which is the largest manufacturer in Italy, has a fully self-sustainable facility that recycles its water and uses solar panels to produce its own electricity," Proulx said. "Consumers are much more educated and are demanding the best manufacturing processes and high-quality products at the best possible price."

Regardless of your style, the range of models, materials, and looks available today mean you'll be able to find cabinetry for your home that meets all of your criteria.

"It's worth investing in because having nice-looking cabinetry is very important," Lamorte said. "The cabinets physically take up the most space in kitchens; it's very prominent, so it is usually the first thing buyers notice."

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