



## Kitchen Design Trends for 2016

HAVE YOU HAD THE SAME KITCHEN layout and design for years, or did you recently purchase a home that has an outdated kitchen? Kitchens are the heart of today's homes and while remodeling your kitchen can be a huge commitment and investment, make sure that you are careful about making trendy choices. When remodeling, consider current trends and determine if they will bring value to your home and appeal to your dreams. Remember to make decisions that will last. Here are some of the trends that are popular today.

Without a doubt, white kitchens are a consumer favorite for their crisp, monochromatic color scheme and timeless style. Gray is quickly gaining popularity and is sometimes being called the new white. Classic black and white kitchen palettes never die and allow for a high contrast. Also, don't be afraid to add color to your décor. Let your bold

color choice be a contrast with lighter neutral tones throughout. Using color accents within the kitchen for window treatments, throw pillows, accessories, or artwork is an ideal way to utilize color. Being flexible will also allow you to personalize and reflect your style.

Clean styles with an overall contemporary feeling are also popular. Contemporary equals spaciousness with more white space and less cabinetry, along with a less formal overall style. Shaker designs are a strong favorite for beauty and simplicity, while rustic contemporary benefits the tension between modern and country.

Marry the kitchen to your home's style. Remember, less is more. For example, glass front cabinets and open shelves are a few ways to keep it clean and airy, giving the eye a break from rows of identical cabinets and creating displays for collective dishes, décor, or kitchen dishes and supplies.

Larger windows and opening up walls to adjacent rooms help the kitchen to look more open and spacious, as well.

Opt for new functionality when remodeling your kitchen. Everyone wants function and efficiency like never before. Pull-out shelves, deep drawers, pull-out recycle bins, tray storage, drawer organizers, docking stations, and smart appliances are a must! No clutter is also popular. Analyze and embrace all the modern features and functions that appliances offer today.


Stainless steel and black stainless appliances are trending and are no longer as expensive as they once were. Convection, induction, dual fuel, and steam ovens are gaining popularity while smaller microwaves and wine/beverage refrigeration are also favorites. Under-cabinet task lighting is also on demand with LED being a favorite among them.

Multiple color schemes are emerging. Lots of



white, off whites, and shades of gray painted perimeters mixed with dark stained furniture-looking islands are being used. Black is making a come back, especially for islands and accent pieces. Black has long been a classic and classy accent for interiors, as well as kitchens.

Endless styles of materials incorporated in the kitchen are also popular. Natural stone countertops in multiple finishes to quartz countertops offered in hundreds of colors and style variations are almost tied in countertop popularity. Riveted metal hoods, accent lighting, touch-activated faucets, and porcelain farmhouse sinks are big favorites. Interesting and color coordinated tiles are everywhere on backsplashes and accent areas. What a great way to bring vibrant life to your kitchen décor!

While the economy has been one of the biggest drivers of trends, clients care more about what they want and that affects the overall kitchen design. Your newly remodeled kitchen should be loved for years to come. It's the start of your day, the end of your day, and is the "hub of the home" where happiness is the true design inspiration! 



*Julie Loehner is a Certified Kitchen Designer and owner of Kitchens By Julie, Inc. Loehner, along with Mark Loehner, her husband, has served clients in the greater Barrington area for more than 30 years, offering the highest quality of cabinetry, turn-key installation, and personalized design services for kitchens, bathrooms, or any other room. The firm's showroom in downtown Cary is located at 27 Jandus Rd., Suite*

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