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Kitchen & Bathroom Trend Report '09



Is your kitchen or bathroom ready for a makeover? We take a look at the most prominent and interesting kitchen and bathroom design trends.

Kitchen Trends '09



The most noticeable kitchen trends of 2009 include appliances. Past appliance trends have sought to make appliances blend in with the design aesthetic of the room. Today's appliances are stylish and often stand out from the rest of the room.

Homeowners are flocking to retro-style appliances, such as 50's-style refrigerators and stand-alone stovetops. The retro style usually involves a more curvaceous figure, more elegant controls, and a myriad of color choices previously unavailable to homeowners.

Homeowners who are not enamored with the retro look have gone in a decidedly different direction—professional-grade appliances. Professional-grade appliances accomplish two feats simultaneously. First, they are sleek and stylish, thus fulfilling the primary objective of most kitchen redesigns. More importantly, professional-grade appliances are designed to allow homeowners to cook like pro chefs—a growing priority for millions of “foodies.” Professional-grade appliances tend to be larger, more durable, and more versatile than standard consumer appliances.

Arguably, the most interesting trend in kitchen design is the recent popularity of under-counter refrigerators—small refrigerators that fit underneath kitchen countertops. They are often being used as secondary refrigerators for specialty items, such as wine.

If making an appliance the centerpiece of your kitchen still rubs you the wrong way, you are not alone. Many homeowners are making the move towards fully integrated appliances, which is essentially a euphemism for appliances that don't look like appliances at all. For instance, a refrigerator can be given a wood finish that matches your other cabinets.

Bath Trends '09



Bathrooms are often the first places that designers experiment with new design ideas and materials. Recent design trends fall right in line with this tendency. Two new materials are popping up in bathrooms across the nation: concrete and recycled glass.

Concrete has long been considered a functional material—something well suited for office buildings and sidewalks, but not much else. This year, designers have decided to use concrete as a primary material for sinks, countertops, and fixtures. Concrete fixtures are easy to maintain, durable, and quite stylish, particularly when they are molded into soft, round designs and adorned with beveled edges.

While concrete is still coming into its own, recycled glass is in its full-fledged craze phase right now. Recycled glass countertops are countertops that are made from broken, recycled glass shards. Because they are made of glass, they tend to have a lot of depth and luminosity (imagine a stained-glass window on your bathroom sink). Because they are made of recycled materials, they are environmentally friendly. Finally, recycled glass is much easier to maintain than the granite countertops that have been so popular for the last several years. Recycled glass is big in bathrooms right now, and it won't be long before recycled glass finds its way into every room of the house.

Of course, the star of the bathroom is the toilet. Gone are the days when a toilet was just a toilet. Today's toilets are more stylish and more functional than ever before. Borrowing liberally from toilet trends in Japan and Europe, today's super toilets have bidet functionality, music controls, heated seats, and sleek designs.

Universal Trends '09



Whether it's a refrigerator that tells you when your food has gone bad or a bathroom air freshener that detects and neutralizes bad odors, computers are finding their way into our kitchens and bathrooms. The top-notch appliance designers promise us meals that cook themselves and bathrooms that clean themselves in just a few short years.

Perhaps it's the recent recession causing people to reconsider energy costs, or maybe people are finally adapting their spending habits to the environmental warning signs that surround us. In either event, anything that saves energy is popular right now. The eco-friendly consumer can invest in energy-saving toilets, sinks, refrigerators, stovetops, and much more. These days, if it uses water or electricity, there's an energy-saver version available.

If you crave uniformity and simplicity, this last trend may throw you for a loop. It is becoming increasingly popular to mix and match wood finishes--particularly among cabinets--even within the same room. This is a daring look and one that requires some real foresight to pull off, but when done correctly, it can really add a sense of character and class to a kitchen or bathroom.