

KITCHEN

SLEEK AND TIMELESS LOOKS FROM THE BAY AREA'S TOP DESIGNERS

CHARISMA

An open and airy design for this contemporary kitchen utilizes exposed beams, raw metal details and sculptural lighting. Rustic materials combined with the architectural stone walls lend whimsical charm to this mountain oasis.

BETHE COHEN DESIGN ASSOCIATES

Kitchens truly are the heart of the home. They hum with energy—primordial hubs where friends and family gather, where meals are prepared and shared, where a whiff from the oven stirs up a warm childhood memory.

Contemporary dream kitchens, such as those pictured here, are perfect visions of form and function, offering nourishment for body and soul. Today's kitchen door stands open to purposes that go far beyond food: Here, you can eat, socialize, study, watch TV or work on your computer. The modern kitchen is a master of multi-tasking.

Local designers continue to integrate kitchen interiors with living areas, creating larger, lighter and more open spaces. Simple details and softer textures quickly update a look, as do high-tech hints found in composite countertops, stone-like tiles, touch screen appliances and glass and metal alloys for work surfaces. Recessed lighting, now greatly improved, is prevalent in today's designs. And, bright splashes of color perform wonders for a quick makeover; use trendy citrus hues for a fun, friendly look.

Current kitchen designs reflect personal tastes. For a modern, streamlined effect, designers work with geometric shapes, tucked-away appliances and an austere color palette. A warm, rustic appearance is achieved by blending new technology with the Old World charm of mosaics, natural wood cabinetry and copper accents.

But, whatever theme, products and materials you choose, the key ingredients in kitchen design will always be style and elegance.

BY DONNA KREY



TIMELINE DESIGN

TOP: MERT CARPENTER PHOTOGRAPHY; BOTTOM: CHRIS CALOMENI, CALI PHOTO; FACING PAGE: JOHN SUTTON



MARTINO INTERIORS

TOP: Gorgeous galley kitchen, once cramped and windowless, now maximizes space and opens to family room. Efficient design offers plenty of storage space, with cooking tools and appliances all within reach. New skylight, professional-grade appliances and custom cabinets complete the transformation. RIGHT: Sunny yellow country kitchen brightens every day with glossy countertops and cozy work area. Hanging and recessed lighting, along with stainless steel appliances, lend contemporary accents. FACING PAGE: Ebony parquet-topped bistro table, built into the red glazed island, spotlights this Tuscan-style kitchen. Cherry wood cabinets, cumaru teak floor and an Italian tile medallion add Old World charm.



AUSTIN DESIGN

HARRELL REMODELING



GREEN DESIGNS OFFER ENERGY SAVINGS AND FLEXIBILITY, USING ECO-FRIENDLY MATERIALS AND IDEAS, LIKE OPEN SHELVING AND MOVABLE STORAGE UNITS.

TOP: Appealing bursts of color on island countertop and throughout this design soften a sophisticated palette of cool white, gray and silver. Interesting, recessed ceiling treatment featuring artful hanging lights adds a bit of whimsy to this polished, contemporary kitchen. RIGHT: Cheerful lemon kitchen with antique white cabinetry and complementary tile backsplash radiates warmth and comfort. Glass-fronted shelving offers an attractive way to display and store favorite dishware. FACING PAGE: Light, cherry wood cabinets complement a stainless steel and glass tiled backsplash. The versatile granite countertop offers three levels, at heights for eating, buffet setup and bar seating.



HARRELL REMODELING

COURTESY HARRELL REMODELING (2); FACING PAGE: DOUG SALIN PHOTO



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KITCHEN CHARISMA



J. HETTINGER INTERIORS



Ultra-modern kitchen overlooks a pool area and features eye-catching glass countertops. Splashes of paint appear between layers of fused glass, adding remarkable depth to the countertops, while backlighting produces a dramatic effect at night. FACING PAGE TOP: An open design creates a feeling of spaciousness with access to adjacent living areas. Bright, ruby lights are a focal point, and a built-in wine cooler lends even greater functionality to a work island. FACING PAGE BOTTOM: Elaborately carved cabinetry makes a statement in a kitchen designed for large family gatherings. Professional, stainless steel appliances and wood flooring laid in a diamond pattern blend beauty with service.

KITCHEN CHARISMA



HARRELL REMODELING



MARTINO INTERIORS

TOP: Chic kitchen/dining nook spotlights glossy granite countertops and maple cabinetry. Blush glass tile wall offers a splash of color while hidden skylights and LED uplighting cast a glow over the counter and rattan stools. BOTTOM: An antique dinner plate from France inspired the palette in this expanded kitchen. The design is highlighted by multiple cabinet finishes, an exquisite mahogany and walnut checkerboard island top and backsplash of hand-glazed bricks. FACING PAGE: Streamlined style shows off stunning Kashmere slate tiles over radiant-heated floor, along with sustainable wood cabinets and a glass tile backsplash. The long, graceful island is an ideal spot for casual entertaining. ■



TOP: REBECCA KMIEC; BOTTOM: MERT CARPENTER PHOTOGRAPHY; FACING PAGE: COURTESY OF HARRELL REMODELING

TIMELINE DESIGN