

CANADA'S HOME IDEA BOOK

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◆◆◆
Unique kitchen
captures
homeowners'
distinctive style

KITCHEN

design

from A to Z

INSPIRING MAKEOVERS
& THE LATEST TRENDS

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PRODUCT SHOWCASES: Kitchens and Exteriors



No Fuss,

NO FUSS

Update your kitchen with a lick of paint



BY **WILLIAM MACDONALD**

PHOTOGRAPHY BY **STEPHANI BUCHMAN**

Near the completion of an extensive renovation to a 1920s north Toronto home, I had a heated debate with the homeowners over whether to paint or not to paint their kitchen cabinets. Since the kitchen was in fairly good shape, we decided to just do a little “cosmetic job.” By cosmetic, I meant fresh coats of paint, updated hardware, etc., or so I thought. When I showed them the colour I had planned for the cabinets, a beautiful dove grey, they said: “Wait, we’re painting the cabinets?”

In an effort to save funds, they expected we’d leave the cabinets alone and just do the walls; they thought the cabinets were fine and of a good quality. True, the cabinets were “fine and good” but, in my



TIPS:

- ◆ **When it comes to choosing colours for your cabinets, it is best to err on the side of classic colours such as blues, whites, blacks, greys and creams**
- ◆ **A strong look for kitchen cabinets is mixing light and dark colours. It all depends on your space and look but generally for a more balanced feel, choose a light colour for uppers and a darker colour for the bottom cabinets**

opinion, they were a little dated colour-wise. At our design firm, we don't like to do just "fine," when we can do "wow!"

I explained to the homeowners that having worked on tons of kitchens, the quickest way to update a kitchen, at a very low cost, is with paint and accessories. Painting cabinets and replacing the hardware can completely transform a kitchen and doesn't cost a fortune. There are a few things to consider though when updating cupboards.

COLOUR IS YOUR FRIEND

When designing a kitchen, I like it to be approachable, functional and playful. Gone are the days of just all-brown or all-white cabinets, although all-white can work in very contemporary or very traditional kitchens.

I like to paint the majority of the cabinetry in one colour then use an accent colour on an island, pantry door, counter stools or the interior of cabinets. For example, a previous client's cupboards and island were painted in the same striking shade of blue, the kitchen was accented with great art, and counter stools were covered in vintage-orange leather. The result was stylish with a "rad-trad" mix...very chic.

For another homeowner's project, which was a very large and light-filled family kitchen, I used a silvery-grey colour on the bulk of the cabinets and a very strong bright white on the island and range hood. The contrast provides tension and when mixed with Carrera marble, the counters and backsplash become extremely elegant.

SOFT SPOT FOR HARDWARE

Early in my career, I had a wonderful client who was obsessed with hardware. Besides teaching me a lot, she subsequently imparted her passion for knobs and hinges to me. Beyond its practical assistance, hardware can be the best accessory a kitchen can have.

Buy the best quality hardware and be sure to try it on. Try holding it in your hand to see how it feels. Is it too tight? Too light? Does it feel cheap? It's like trying on a pair of shoes; hardware has to fit to work and look beautiful.

When considering an update to your kitchen, you don't always have to reach for the hammer. Try the paintbrush and the screwdriver first. Adding colour to your cabinetry and a few other bits and pieces can completely enliven a tired kitchen and give it that wow-factor that makes a world of difference. ♦

Toronto-based designer, William MacDonald, is the principal of WillMac Design. His firm is best known for creating stylish approachable spaces that evoke a simple, timeless elegance. Servicing clientele throughout Canada, the U.S. and overseas. willmacdesign.ca @willmacdesign



KITCHENS

◆ **PRESTIGE!**

Spruce up your kitchen with Riobel's Perla faucet from the Prestige collection. A real chef faucet, with two jets and a flexible spout, the Perla is available in chrome or in stainless steel. This faucet will become the jewel of your kitchen and will catch everyone's eye.

RIOBEL, riobel.ca

◆ **TILE MAKEOVER**

X-Tile Canada, with three locations in Toronto and Mississauga, offers a wide range of ceramic, glass, metal, porcelain, natural stone, and mosaic tiles, including 13x13-inch porcelain tile and 12x24-inch Italian porcelain tiles. Open seven days a week.

X-TILE CANADA, x-tile.net

◆ **DESIGNED TO MATCH**

Fisher & Paykel products are designed for every size space, from a compact apartment to a spacious family room. With the performance required by both a weekday cook and a weekend gourmet, they have the perfect match for your kitchen and the life lived within it.

FISHER & PAYKEL, fisherpaykel.com

◆ **HIGH-QUALITY KITCHEN FINISHES**

Pro Glo has been the leader for more than 25 years in the GTA, providing customers with quality products and services. This family-owned company will work within your budget to refinish your kitchen to your satisfaction. Pro Glo offers high-quality finishes, from solid colour to stain applications and specialty finishes. For onsite preparations they use Festool HEPA Filter Dust Extractor and Sanding tools, which minimize dust in the home.

PRO GLO PAINTS, kitchenrefinishingtoronto.com

◆ **DURABLE & DESIGN-FORWARD**

The BLANCO IKON, the world's first apron-front sink made of natural granite composite—SILGRANIT—reflects BLANCO's continued commitment to innovation. The IKON will not scratch or stain, is exceptionally easy to clean, and will maintain its beauty for many years. The slightly angled apron design adds an architectural element to any kitchen. Available in three SILGRANIT colours: Anthracite, Café and White.

BLANCO CANADA INC., blancocanada.com

KITCHENS

NEW HIGH-GLOSS COLLECTION ➤

Dekton by Cosentino is the ultra-compact surface with advanced technical properties for both interior and exterior applications. Now the XGLOSS Series offers four new luxurious high-gloss colours touting the highest reflectivity with durability only Dekton can offer.

DEKTON BY COSENTINO, dekton.com



➤ **MULTI-PURPOSE
POWER FAUCET**

The Align Pre-Rinse Spring Kitchen Faucet combines the industrial-inspired design style that consumers desire with the functionality of a residential kitchen faucet. Its thoughtfully engineered pull-down hose provides significant reach, and the multi-function spray wand features Moen's new Power Clean technology, which contains splashing and minimizes mess.

MOEN, moen.ca

PRETTY PRACTICAL ➤

Soapstone is an excellent choice for bathroom countertops and sinks because it is non-porous and, therefore, resistant to stains and bacteria. Soapstone does not require chemical sealants and withstands extreme temperatures. The natural-honed matte finish and silky-smooth texture give this stone a timeless elegance and beauty.

GREENSVILLE SOAPSTONE COMPANY,
greensvillesoapstone.com



➤ **SMART SOLUTIONS**

Innovative thinking led to the world's first Microwave Drawer Oven, an appliance that has helped revolutionize kitchen design and microwave oven placement. Sharp's next-generation Microwave Drawer is larger, sleeker and more accessible than ever. With more convenience features, quieter operation and a more integrated design, it is the best solution yet for where to place the microwave.

SHARP ELECTRONICS OF CANADA LTD., sharp.ca



➤ **DXV BY AMERICAN STANDARD**

Country heritage and character reflected in a restrained and sophisticated style. DXV's Hillside Collection's bountiful style and refined utility elevate the kitchen work space. DXV's Hillside luxury farm sinks are available in a variety of sizes in both stainless steel and fine fire clay. Form-fitting sink racks and strainers are included with each Hillside collection farm sink. The Victorian Faucet Collection is timeless and reflects grandeur and ornamentation of European design—available in various finishes including Carbon Bronze.

AMERICAN STANDARD, americanstandard.com

KITCHENS

SLEEK SCANDINAVIAN STYLE ➡

The Solna Kitchen Collection by Brizo brings sleek Scandinavian style to the culinary space with articulating faucet architecture.

Designed to bring greater versatility to common kitchen tasks, the articulating arm offers a larger range of movement than a traditional pull-down faucet—letting you perfectly position the faucet for any task at hand. Visit brizo.com for more information.

Available at The Water Closet showrooms.

THE WATER CLOSET, watercloset.ca



↑ DELICATE & POWERFUL

Taller, slimmer and redesigned for enhanced comfort, the GROHE Essence+ kitchen faucet is a new favourite, with cult potential. The state-of-the-art, solid-metal hand spray features an ergonomic toggle, allowing normal water flow to be changed into a powerful spray. Perfect for use in a busy kitchen.

GROHE CANADA, grohe.ca

WINE STORAGE SOLUTIONS ➡

Specially educated and trained cellar-building teams will advise on the proper building requirements and solutions for your wine storage needs. Wine cabinets, cooling units and wine racks are also available.

H202 WINE CELLAR DESIGN, h202winecellardesign.com



← AGELESS STONE

Ageless. Organic. Original. No two pieces are ever alike. Since 1950, Ciot has carried natural stone slabs from around the world, including many specialty stones exclusive to Ciot. Each stone adds a distinctive touch to your design. No matter what stone you're looking for, you'll find it in Ciot's large selection. Featured here, Diamond Fall Granite.

CIOT INC., ciot.com



← CUSTOMIZE YOUR KITCHEN

Allstyle Cabinet Doors has created a "Retro-Fit" solution for fully customizing the look of IKEA cabinets. Allstyle offers hundreds of colours, style and material options to create the kitchen design you desire. The flexibility of combining standard cabinetry with finely crafted doors creates a stunning result.

ALLSTYLE CABINETS, allstyle.ca

KITCHENS

INSTANT GRATIFICATION ➡

Looking for quartz gratification? Quartex Surfaces delivers!

With industry-leading “book-matching” colours and patterns, their quartz slabs have been engineered to show a continuous vein pattern and a mirroring effect that looks amazing in a large kitchen, bathroom or on commercial walls. Visit their beautiful showroom for a closer look.

QUARTEX SURFACES INC., quartex.com



↓ AN EVERYDAY MASTERPIECE

A classic reinvented, the 5131 Calacatta Nuvo is Caesarstone's interpretation of natural Calacatta marble—offering the beauty of natural stone with the ease of Caesarstone care and maintenance. An everyday masterpiece, Calacatta Nuvo features wide, elegant, cascading grey veins on a white opaque base. Calacatta Nuvo makes a bold and unforgettable impression, upgrading the look of any interior space.

CAESARSTONE CANADA, caesarstone.ca



➡ ONE-STOP SHOPPING

Imagine bringing a piece of the past into your home with Kohler's new Artifacts kitchen faucet collection. This timeless and elegant kitchen sink faucet has a multi-purpose spray head to make your kitchen tasks simple and effective. Atlantis Bath Centre is your one-stop shop for all of your Kohler plumbing fixtures. Visit one of their locations and experience the Atlantis difference.

ATLANTIS BATH CENTRE, atlantisbathcentre.ca



↑ UNIQUE CABINETRY DESIGN

Since 1992, Fortino Custom Cabinets and Closets has served customers in the Greater Toronto Area looking for high-quality cabinetry and storage solutions for their homes. They create one-of-a-kind kitchens, bathrooms, home offices, closets, built-in entertainment and wall units, wall beds, as well as garage restorations.

NIICO MILLWORK GROUP LTD., niico.com

↓ A LOOK OF ELEGANCE

Luxury appliance innovator Jenn-Air has introduced an industry-first in refrigeration that brings a look of elegance to any kitchen. The Obsidian features a stunning black interior and multi-point LED lighting throughout, to emphasize metallic accents and make the interior sparkle. The Obsidian line includes a 36-inch, built-in, two-door bottom-mount refrigerator/freezer and a 36-inch and 42-inch fully integrated French door bottom-mount refrigerator/freezer. Available at premium independent Canadian appliance retailers. JENN AIR, jennairblack.ca



EXTERIORS

FOSSIL CASCADE ➡

The ErthCOVERINGS Cascade Series consists of lightweight and easy-to-install stone planks designed to create a sense of harmony and dramatic appeal. The natural stone is worked by hand to create a surface texture made up of a cascade of natural indentations resembling water ripples. This unique surface treatment allows the stone to easily blend with its surroundings.

ERTHCOVERINGS, erthcoverings.com

**SUPERIOR HOME HARDWARE** ➡

Prima Home Hardware is committed to providing you with the small things that make a big difference to your design project. From durable sand-cast floor registers, cabinet hardware, entrance door handles, door locks, knockers, hinges, gate hardware, and elegant air-return grilles, Prima features custom-made hardware that adds character and function to any home. Plus, Prima Home can custom-design hardware according to your specifications.

PRIMA HOME HARDWARE INC., primahomehardware.com



➡ **CONTEMPORARY ELEGANCE**

When you choose the strength and durability of luxurious stone products in colours inspired by nature and then accent them with attractive, maintenance-free clay bricks in complementary textures and colours, your home has the best of both worlds. Your home's timeless style and elegance will be the envy of all your neighbours.

BRAMPTON BRICK LIMITED,
bramptonbrick.com



➡ **WITH THE CLICK OF A MOUSE**

Adding stone to your home couldn't be any easier with the new Stone Selex Visualizer. With a click of your computer's mouse you can try it before you buy it. Visit a showroom to choose from natural and manufactured stone or brick veneer to suit your style and budget. STONE SELEX, stoneselex.com



➡ **BRING THE OUTDOORS IN**

For 30 years, Perma-Wood has helped clients redefine the relationship with their homes. The spaces they create reflect the spirit of its surroundings, the architecture of the home, and the way in which a modern family lives. The extensive use of high-efficiency thermal glass makes it possible to create year-round living spaces—beautiful rooms that bring the outdoors in.

PERMA-WOOD SOLARIUMS, perma-wood.com