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KITCHEN TRENDS
THAT WILL HAVE YOU*Cooking in Style*

BY LINDA MAZUR

Today's kitchens are becoming an extension of our living space.

The trends emerging in 2016 are aiming to give kitchens a "personality," making them a more inviting space in which to entertain, socialize or just catch up with family at the end of the day. It's where life happens!

White and neutral coloured kitchens maintain their popularity, but in 2016 we are seeing them merge with bold pops of colour to create a dramatic look. You'll be seeing colour in everything — from lighting, backsplashes and appliances, to sinks and faucets. White is always a strong-hold when it comes to cabinet colors, but now we are seeing light grays, pale blues, soft muted greens and even strong charcoal grays become exceedingly prevalent. Wood tones are also getting a makeover. The heavy, dark espresso wood cabinets are giving way to lighter tones like white oak or walnuts, with a bit more pronounced grain.





Texture is hot in design this year, but adding texture to your kitchen can be a challenge. In other living spaces texture can be incorporated with great accessories and lush fabrics. A kitchen, however, is usually streamlined and focused on function more than aesthetics. This year there will be an abundance of texture available to us for the kitchen. From raw wood cabinetry and rough-hewn woods for counters, to coarse stone surfaces and unpolished back-splashes, texture will add life and dimension to your kitchen space.

Metallics are seen everywhere in 2016! We see the continuation of warm antique brass, copper and aged metals for cabinet hardware, accessories and pendant lights. However, this year metals are making a greater statement in kitchen design with the growing popularity of metallic finished range hoods. The raw texture of a metal range hood is a great contrast in a white or neutral kitchen.

Modern, streamlined kitchens are getting a fresh look with this year's movement towards thinner countertops. Thicker counters are pushed aside with the appearance of thin surfaces that blend into the cabinetry, giving a sleek and seamless look to your kitchen. This seamless look can be further enhanced by the sink and faucet

you select. Consider Blanco's great line of Silgranit sinks and coordinating faucets. They are available in a diverse amount of different style options, including this year's great addition — the Ikon sink — a modern design of a traditional farmhouse apron sink, the first of its kind available in Silgranit. These sinks are virtually indestructible! They are scratch resistant, durable, impact, stain and heat resistant; and are manufactured in Toronto, from an exclusive to Blanco Silgranit composite material.

With the movement towards integrating your kitchen into your living space, we see trends emerging now that reflect this and attempt to adapt and conceal many of our smaller appliances and functional day-to-day necessities. One such trend and something that I have been designing for a while for my clients, is a hidden "charging station" or designated spot for storing and charging devices like phones and tablets.

2016 and all it has to offer can create amazingly designed kitchens for you. Embrace these trends and don't be afraid to explore your own creativity. With all the latest design possibilities available to us, you're sure to make your kitchen an inviting place where you'll be cooking in style! **CL**



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