



IF YOU WANT YOUR KITCHEN TO MAKE A STATEMENT, YOU'LL LOVE THESE STRIKING DESIGNS by HOLLY CRAWFORD

HE KITCHEN has always been the heart of our homes, but many of us have spent more time at home—and in our kitchens—in the past year than we ever thought we might. What once was a cooking and gathering space, is now as often used as a workplace, classroom and video call stage. What kind of kitchen are we looking for now? The answer to that question is as varied as are homeowners. Here are three distinctly different kitchens, each with their own unique style and appeal. The one thing they have in common? Not a single one is white.

A RICH GREEN SHADE

One of the movements in kitchen design has been a return to colour, and certainly a return to colour on cabinetry. If you love a bold shade in your home, this may be the kitchen for you.

Designed by West of Main for Eq Homes, this kitchen scheme began with the rich green cabinet colour: Essex Green by Benjamin Moore. "Our goal was to create a boutique-style kitchen that blended traditional as well as modern elements together. We started by selecting a deep warm green cabinet colour and everything fell into place from there," says Sascha LaFleur, West of Main co-founder and principal designer. West of Main is an award-wining, Ottawa-based design firm providing complete residential and commercial design services.

With plenty of storage space provided by a walk-in pantry, the plan could afford to eliminate upper cabinets on the stove wall, creating the space for an impactful feature, and another emerging element of kitchen design: the feature range hood. "We created a feature wall by including a 60-inch hood, mixing white subway tile and marble backsplashes, and added some decorative wall sconces for a touch of glam," says LaFleur.

To balance the side of the kitchen without upper cabinets, the wall where the refrigerator resides was completely paneled for a seamless appearance, accomplished beautifully with floor-toceiling cabinetry.

A mix of materials highlight the deep green cabinets even further. "To break off the deep cabinet colour, we designed some thin, black metal glass doors for one of the cabinets and used the light wood finish found on the island and hood fan on the interior to create contrast," she says. "We added glassfront cabinets to break off the weight of a full, closed look cabinet wall. The glass allows for the interior melamine wood to tie into the wood on the island."

The ideal accompaniment to the green hue, brass finishes are showcased in the faucets, knobs and lighting. Making a statement above the island is a pair of geometric Morris Lanterns by West of Main in brass. "The silhouette perfectly blends the traditional and modern details we had created within the kitchen," LaFleur says. "Although oversized, the pendants don't disrupt the look of the kitchen since they are mostly glass, which allows them to cast beautiful mood lighting."

