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# Kitchen Innovations

BY REN MILLER

The kitchen has become a multipurpose room with professional-style appliances and layouts, homework and bill-paying areas, and room for comfortable furniture. That has led to a whole range of products that allow us to personalize kitchens for our particular uses and tastes.

**1 Shrinking appliances.** Even luxury appliance brands now offer slimmer silhouettes as condo construction soars and Baby Boomers split their time between two smaller homes.

**2 Transitional and contemporary kitchens** have surged ahead of traditional styles in popularity in the past four years, based on a survey of kitchen designers by the National Kitchen & Bath Association.

**3 Classic European-style ranges** continue to find a place in kitchens, even those with an otherwise contemporary or transitional look.

**4 Easy-care quartz countertops** now come in absolutely fool-the-eye imitations of granite and marble. Prices are comparable.

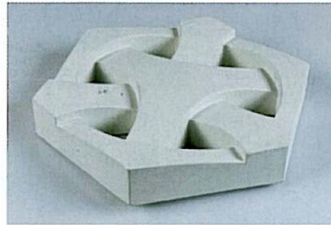
**5 Interactive appliances** — including refrigerators, cooktops and ovens — allow you to order groceries, adjust temperatures and start to cook dinner while you're still at the office.

**6 Conversely, kitchen office features** — including desks, docking stations and even technology that allows you to charge your mobile phone by placing it on an enabled countertop — allow you to do office work while still at home.

**7 Kitchens are being personalized with openwork and exaggerated dimensional tiles.**

**8 Multipurpose ovens** allow not only for regular and microwave cooking but also convection, steam and high-speed cooking. Some manufacturers offer multiple cooking options in the same oven.

**9 Easy access.** Wall oven doors on some appliances open left or right instead of down so you don't have to reach over a hot door to lift out a baking dish. French-door ovens are another option.



OGASSIAN BRISE, DESIGNED BY ARTIST DANIEL OGASSIAN FOR ANN SACKS, IS A HANDCRAFTED CEMENT SERIES OF OPEN TILES WITH EXAGGERATED DESIGNS FOR PERSONALIZING A SPACE. ANNSACKS.COM.

**10 Pullouts & rollouts.** Pullout cabinetry eliminates the need to reach into the back of a lower cabinet to retrieve a heavy pot. Rollouts, which typically fit under the counter, allow you to take, for example, all of your baking needs to the exact spot where you need them.

**11 Get pushy.** Several manufacturers now offer appliances with doors that open with a light push. These handle-less appliances provide an easy-open option for the physically challenged and allow a clean look for modern kitchens.

**12 Gray.** This trendy color has made it to kitchen cabinetry; the trend is changing from gray with blue undertones to gray with brown undertones.



THE CLASSIC EUROPEAN-STYLE RANGE IS FROM THE HERITAGE SERIES BY BERTAZZONI. BERTAZZONI.COM.

**13 Appliance doubles.** Television shows have elevated interest in cooking — and professional-style kitchens — so more homeowners are installing multiples, including two or three wall ovens and two dishwashers.



THE VIKING PROFESSIONAL FRENCH DOOR ELECTRIC OVEN HAS SIDE-SWING DOORS THAT ENHANCE ACCESSIBILITY. VIKINGRANGE.COM.

**14 Wine refrigerators.** Ideal for the growing number of connoisseurs, many models allow you to adjust temperatures and humidity in separate compartments for whites and reds.

**15 Kitchen tables** — that icon of family togetherness — may be on the way out — at least in its traditional form. More kitchen designers say their clients opt for counter seating only or for a pub-style tables with higher legs that suggest perching while snacking more than sitting down for a meal.

# 15 Get Organized

BY LISA RACKLEY

It's not as hard as you may think to keep your home organized and clutter-free. Here are some tips.

## BATHROOM

- Store items you use daily together — for example, place cotton swabs and cosmetic brushes in a decorative container or basket. Do the same for items you use occasionally and for those you seldom use. Or store by category, such as makeup and shaving items.

- Use empty wall space over the toilet to hang a cabinet or shelves.

- Install a wall-mounted soap dispenser in the shower to eliminate bulky bottles on the tub deck or countertop.

- Double-rod towel bars take up less space than dedicating a single-rod bar to each family member.

## CLOSET

- If you hire a professional closet company, make a written wish list in advance.

- Factor in measurements for long dresses, coats and other uniquely sized items.

- Consider hooks, drawers and jewelry inserts if you don't have enough room in your dresser or armoire.

- Keep a separate hamper to collect unwanted items (outdated clothing, shoes or even toys). When it's full, consign or donate the items.

## DINING ROOM

- Repurpose an extra dresser or refinish a vintage one with deep drawers to store extra table linens or serving pieces.

## ENTRY/MUDROOM

- Benches, cabinets, bins and hooks remain the easiest way to organize coats, shoes, hats and other accessories you'll need before heading outdoors.



DOUBLE RODS CUT THE SPACE NEEDED TO HANG BATH TOWELS IN HALF.

COURTESY OF BALLARIDESIGNS.COM



AN ÉTAGÈRE ADDS DECORATIVE STORAGE WITHOUT TAKING UP A LOT OF SPACE.

COURTESY OF COLOMORSHK.COM



THE GRAY AND YELLOW OTTOMAN IS A STYLISH WAY TO STORE SMALL ITEMS.

PHOTO BY BHARATILISTS.COM  
COURTESY OF NEWINTERIORHOME.COM



COURTESY OF IKEA.COM

USE ROLLING CARTS TO ORGANIZE EVERYTHING FROM BAKING SUPPLIES TO OFFICE TOOLS.

## GARAGE

- Take advantage of the walls and ceiling by installing a hanging or hook system to store shovels, bicycles, gardening items and more.

## KITCHEN

- Create workstations and keep all tools for a particular task in that area. Examples include baking supplies, tools, office supplies and craft supplies.

## KIDS ROOM/PLAY AREA

- Hang a variety of frames on a wall to create an ever-changing showcase of children's artwork.

## BEDROOM/LIVING/FAMILY ROOM

- Stylish storage ottomans and multifunctional coffee tables can be used to store shoes, toys, books and television remotes.

## OFFICE

- Email inboxes are a haven of clutter. Set aside a day, or a certain time each day, to decide which newsletters and retail promotions you want to continue to receive and unsubscribe to the others.