



COURTESY VILLA ORTIGA

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1. The key to suitable kitchen spaces and cabinetry design is by understanding and focusing how people use kitchens.

2. Sarabjit Singh, Founder and Architectural Designer, Villa Ortiga

## THE KITCHEN EVOLUTION

KITCHENS ARE EVOLVING TO BECOME SPACES WHERE SOCIAL LIFE IS COMING TO THE FOREFRONT EVEN AS IT SHEDS ITS IMAGE OF JUST A SPACE TO COOK.

BY BINDU GOPAL RAO

**D**esigning kitchens as functional spaces going beyond the conventional realm while balancing practicality and aesthetics is what is piquing the interests of architects and designers.

### DESIGN DETAILS

Kitchen spaces these days are becoming modern and minimalist with optimum functionality. Kitchen renovation is now one of the top priorities on the list of every household. "Space organization, quality material

and finishes, superior surface finishes, all are paramount to the consumer now. In terms of design, the focus has now shifted from more space to well organized space. Consumers have become acceptable to removing the clutter and focusing on storing the essentials. More than creating lofts all around the kitchen, the need has changed to decreasing the claustrophobic effect," says Abhineet Seth, Founder, Abodekraftz. Today, a kitchen is used as a place for socialising, as an office for working from home, and as a hub for families to come together. In addition, with rapid urbanisation, kitchens have also evolved into more than just modular utility and convenience rooms, and cooking is no longer seen as a chore but as an experience. "Cutting-edge developments in kitchen equipment and appliances have allowed for homeowners to have a wider range of choices. People are gravitating toward bold and rich colours and experimenting heavily with colour contrasts and manufacturers are also offering more options for panel-ready appliance fronts to make the transition from living spaces to a kitchen seem seamless and cohesive," explains Architect Ekta Ahuja, Founder, Tejomaya Designs.

### SPACE STYLE

In an era of everything convenient and stylish, kitchen spaces are also catching up in terms of innovations, designs, and product ranges. The concept of built-in appliances in kitchens is on the high rise. "Multipurpose kitchen sinks that look vibrant and fancy, sleek yet super functional hobs, chimneys with upgraded tech features, delicious coffee making machines, built-in wine chillers and refrigerators, ovens and not to forget ice-makers. A shift in lifestyle and culture on a larger perspective has played a major role in the rising demands of products in these lines," says Chirag Parekh, Chairman and Managing Director at Acrysil Limited. The kitchen island is a sought-after feature. Meenu Agarwal, Founder & Interior Designer, MAD5 Creations says, "it can be either used for prepping or for eating breakfast. It becomes an attractive design feature in the kitchen, as you can have a decorative light overhead, and add stylish chairs and accessories. It adds an extra



COURTESY TEJOMAYA DESIGNS



COURTESY ABDEKRAFTZ



3. The grey colour here is achieved by using a grey quartz stone not only on the backsplash but up to the ceiling instead of paint.

4. The overall look and colour is conceptualized to be a breath of fresh air.

5. In terms of design, the focus has now shifted from more space to well-organized space.

6. Abhineet Seth, Founder, Abodekraftz

7. Ar. Ekta Ahuja, Founder, Tejomaya Designs

8. Chirag Parekh, Chairman & Managing Director at Acrysil Limited



COURTESY TEJOMAYA DESIGNS

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design dimension to the kitchen, and makes people enjoy spending time there. So obviously, the kitchen design is as significant as the rest of the home." Sarabjit Singh, Founder and Architectural Designer, Villa Ortiga adds, "lighting is one of the most important aspects of kitchen design. All counters, drawers, and shelves can be optimally illuminated with profile LED lighting. Good lighting makes the space seem larger, and it becomes easier to spot anything dirty or unhygienic."

#### TRENDING TALES

The use of glass, hydraulic mechanised doors and drawers, modular cabinets and smart electronic equipment embodies the current trends of a well-designed functional kitchen. "Cabinets double up as display shelves showing off the latest cookbooks adding the much-needed colour and depth to an otherwise seamless kitchen. Built in is the

new go to in terms of microwave, dishwashers and even refrigerators," says Shweta Shetty, Architect, Shweta Shetty and Associates. Amit Shah, MD, Classic Marble Company opines, "in the countertop and backsplash applications, Quartz slabs with vein patterns in beige, grey and black are being preferred over others. Since the slabs can be rendered the desired shapes and sizes, they are compatible in applications such as for sink and hob fittings." Aboli Shah, Founder and Principal Designer, Aboli Shah Atelier, says, "colourful backsplashes, collaborating vintage and modern design, adding technology in the kitchen such as automation, layered lighting with ambient light and indirect light and open kitchen/glass partitions are trending. People are now open to using natural materials such as wood, stone, marble, cork boards for more sustainable living."

#### CONTEMPORARY CUES

Modern spaces pay homage to this living kitchen. The modern dream kitchen is a cozy space, warm materials and furnishing with individual character merge with an open plan kitchen that is perfect for social gatherings. "In the open floor kitchen, preparing, consuming food, and relaxing come together to create a visually refreshing addition to the living space. Of course, the kitchen is fitted with technologically advanced fittings for functionality for work processes. Cooking is trendy, and so is an open floor kitchen" says Gaurav Malhotra, Managing Director India, and Regional Key Accounts Asia, Hansgrohe India. Abhijith R Priyan, Architect, buildAhome adds, "from sitting kitchen type to the standing modular kitchen now there has been a profusion evolution. One major design impact is the usage of the golden triangle principle which is the refrigerator, the sink and the hob being equidistant from each other, forming a neat triangle area which is the most functional space in the kitchen. So, one can reach everything without moving too much." Design philosophies centric to the theme of sustainability are on the rise. "Using waste material to curate a décor item or designing your kitchen through reused material are a few concepts that are being explored



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COURTESY SHWETA SHETTY

9. Shweta Shetty, Architect, Shweta Shetty and Associates

10. Amit Shah, Managing Director, Classic Marble Company

11. Graphite Grey kitchen top by Classic Marble Company

12. Opulent kitchens have given way to more user-friendly and low-maintenance materials.

COURTESY ABOLI SHAH ATELIER

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COURTESY WOODENSTREET

COURTESY BUILDAHOME

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now. We see sustainable designs becoming a lot bigger in the future, as technology advances, we are sure that the process of recycling and reusing will become much easier and more widespread, allowing people to be truly creative with such concepts," says Ashok Basoya, Founder, Ottimo.

#### COVID-19 IMPACT

The pandemic has brought about a drastic change and people are veering towards sustainable and conscious living. This has drastically changed the way people are today designing or re-modelling their homes. Opulent kitchens have given way to more user friendly and low maintenance materials being. Sejal Parikh, Interior Designer, Woodenstreet says, "during the pandemic, the kitchen

emerged as the prominent room and has been the big heart of the home. While we talk about the kitchen appliances, the focus is more on functionality and storage that allows the homeowners to increase the efficiency of cooking experience. For instance, ventilation hoods are now playing the role of a focal point, on the other hand, Quartz, particularly in lighter hues, will continue to be the driving material for countertops."

#### TECH RULES

Technology is giving a functional solution to their everyday cooking problems, without compromising on style and finish. "Innovations and technological advancements are enabling modular kitchens to evolve at a rapid pace. Additions like voice-activated faucets, IoT microwaves, tech-infused range hoods and even Script's offerings such as anti-stain and dishwasher proof dinnerware, are slowly changing the face of Indian kitchens," says Subodh Mehta, Sr. Vice President (B2C) Godrej Interio. Safety and hygiene is the need of the hour and technology that creates a self-defense mechanism for killing microbes like bacteria, viruses and fungus are being preferred. Ajay Aggarwal, Managing Director, Action TESA, avers, "we have introduced Antiviro technology on Pre-laminated Particle Board, Pre-laminated MDF, Pre-Laminated HDHMR Boards, Pre-laminated Boilo, Pre-Laminated HDHMR Doors and Laminated HDF Flooring." Satinder Chawla, Managing Director, Span Floors adds, "we have launched a new water-



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13. Open kitchens are now more commonly used for a more spacious feel.

14. The unparalleled Aquano Select M81 kitchen taps create an ultra-modern way of working, with ultra-efficient water management at the sink.

15. Elegant L-shaped island modular kitchen.

16. Kitchens have become the social venue of the house and the place of more than just preparing the meals.

17. Aboli Shah, Founder and Principal Designer, Aboli Shah Atelier

18. Gaurav Malhotra MD India and Regional Key Accounts Asia, Hansgrohe Group

19. Abhijith R Priyan, Architect, buildAhome

20. Sejal Parikh, Interior Designer, Woodenstreet



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21. Ajay Aggarwal, Managing Director, Action TESA

22. Subodh Mehta, Sr. Vice President (B2C) Godrej Interio

23. Satinder Chawla, Managing Director, Span Floors

24. Making the best of technology Action Tesa has been creating hassle-free products that do not require any special care.

25. Godrej Interio's latest product offering the 'Neo Smart Chimney' has cool draft and auto clean features.

26. In the open floor kitchen, preparing, consuming food, and relaxing come together to create a visually refreshing addition to the living space.

27. Neat and clean layouts coupled with functional floors is the going trend.



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COURTESY ACTION TESA



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COURTESY SPAN FLOORS



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COURTESY HANSGRÖHE

resistant laminate flooring for areas such as kitchens. This flooring is highly scratch resistant, can be wet and steam mopped for better hygiene and is available in beautiful wood decors. No longer is a homeowner only limited to stone or tiles for such areas." 

#### WEBSITES:

- **Shweta Shetty and Associates:** [www.shwetashetty.in](http://www.shwetashetty.in)
- **Woodenstreet:** [www.woodenstreet.com](http://www.woodenstreet.com)
- **Abodekraftz:** [www.facebook.com/Abodekraftz](https://www.facebook.com/Abodekraftz)
- **Action TESA:** [www.actiontesa.com/](http://www.actiontesa.com/)

- **Classic Marble Company:** [www.classicmarble.com](http://www.classicmarble.com)
- **Tejomaya Designs:** [www.tejomayadesigns.com](http://www.tejomayadesigns.com)
- **Span Floors:** [www.spanfloors.com](http://www.spanfloors.com)
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