



KITCHEN CONFIDENTIAL

NEW AGE KITCHENS ARE ALL ABOUT FORM MEETING FUNCTIONALITY WITH A TOUCH OF TECHNOLOGY AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.

BY BINDU GOPAL RAO

The last two years have seen a lot of changes in our lifestyle, which is reflected in the way interior design for homes, especially kitchens, is currently being approached. The hearth is the heart and soul of a home, and the importance of a happy kitchen cannot be stressed enough.

APPLIANCE AIDS

The year 2021 was a lot about incorporating technology into the hearth. That theme is likely to see a push in the new year where the functions of the appliances are upgraded. Devika Khosla, Creative Director, The Works Interiors, says, "Appliances will see a crucial upgrade, especially the refrigerator, which happens to be one of the most significant appliances of the kitchen whose style and utility is of utmost importance. The upcoming refrigerator will be integrated with automation affixed with handle-less glass door panels, shutters and auto-assist features. Through Bluetooth integration, we could sync state-of-the-art cooking ranges like ovens and microwaves to set timers and manage

cooking." Khushboo Shah & Meghna Shah, Partners, The Mark Décor add, "Wirelessly connected modern kitchen appliances will lead the revolution inside the kitchen. With Smartphone controlled features, people are now able to set the mood lighting of the kitchen, control the temperature of a refrigerator, monitor the timing and temperature of the oven, stove tops, and microwave - enjoy a seamless control of all your kitchen appliances."

NEW TIDINGS

Appliances, equipment, and materials based on advanced technologies are in the bank of new launches for kitchen spaces. "For example, optimum absorption chimneys that adhere to Indian cooking methodologies, warmers, drawers, consolidated microwave oven and refrigerator units are highly efficient and aesthetically fitting options that we have added to our design conceptualisations. In addition to that, new-age clients welcome prefabricated modular kitchen systems that offer factory-made precision and quality," says Rahul Mistri, Principal Designer, Open Atelier Mumbai. Space

1. Customers want a modular kitchen that blends function with elegance and makes cooking a pleasurable experience like this L-shape one with an island courtesy HomeTown.

2. Devika Khosla, Creative Director, The Works Interiors.

3. Khushboo Shah & Meghna Shah, Partners, The Mark Décor

and storage facilities in kitchens are two of the most sought-after provisions while making the decision. They are critical to design and given the trend for open and large spaces, it's more important than ever to plan the space efficiently to ensure a clutter free environment. "A good kitchen storage design can help keep the kitchen clean, neat, functional and is a great addition to the overall aesthetics. It is great to feel the openness while cooking up a culinary delight. With cooking being one of the favourite pastimes in current times, homes are designed to offer more space for members of the house to use the kitchen together without any hassle," says Rishad Khergamwala, Director-Developments, MAIA Estates.

HEALTH HUES

CenturyLaminates has added new designs to their LUCIDA range and presented a new concept of solid design in combination with wood grain designs to give a complete makeover to kitchen spaces, making them more fun, vibrant, and interesting. "These LUCIDA range of laminates come in 59 different designs, each carefully picked to suit such high maintenance areas, in addition to the industry first innovation of Virokill technology that kills 99.99% viruses, ensuring a hygienic and safe environment," says Shankho Chowdhury, President, Decoratives Division, CenturyPly.

Meanwhile, the ground-breaking Wellness Architecture by Magppie is a profound, patented new generation wellness lighting technology called SUNROOOF so you have the natural healing energies of sunlight in your kitchen. "To highlight the need for integrated wellbeing in our day to day living, for the first time ever, we have launched the world's first and only wellness kitchens built in sanitised stone which also makes them the world's strongest kitchens. These are first ever fully washable kitchens and built as extremely hygienic with anti-bacterial materials," says Vinod Jain, Founder, Magppie Kitchen.

BEING CONTEMPORARY

With the arrival of modular kitchens, the open kitchen

concept has taken center stage and is seen as a widespread home trend in India. It makes the kitchen look brighter and airy. The best part about open kitchens is they have minimalist designs and are equipped with luxurious features such as spacious cabinets, double door refrigerators, sinks, built-in ovens, and an eat-in counter. "Evolving social dynamics and technology have transformed it into a space to be oneself and to unwind and rejuvenate. Clean and simple styles have become favourites for the kitchen, with as much natural light as possible. The designs are now moving in the



4. Neo Smart chimney offers a specialized cool draft design to ensure user comfort while they prepare food courtesy Godrej Interio.

5. Custom cabinetry to add character and a personal touch to the space courtesy Open Atelier Mumbai.

6. Rahul Mistri, Principal Designer, Open Atelier Mumbai.

7. Rishad Khergamwala, Director-Developments, MAIA Estates





8. Shashank Chowdhury, President, Decoratives Division, CenturyPly

9. Vinod Jain, Founder, Magppie Kitchen

10. Shashank Singh, CEO & Director, Capsicum Kitchens and Wardrobes

11. This is a French Classical kitchen with hood covered to match the look. Tall wall units are used to add additional storage and add to the look of the space courtesy Design Cubes.

12. The utilisation of appliances that are advanced and aesthetically fitting here courtesy Open Atelier Mumbai.

13. Magppie Kitchens are built with the highest level new age Home automation & IOT integration to make your life easy and comfortable alongside healthy and robust.



direction such that we bring the kitchen out and make it an integrated part of our living space. The focus is on using all the available space to optimal advantage," says Shashank Singh, CEO & Director, Capsicum Kitchens and Wardrobes.

PAST PERFECT

Grounded living is reflected in slow, intuitive cooking practices that reinstate age-old traditions, as well as in the use of natural materials. "The slow food movement evolves towards even slower processes, and domestic kitchen tools reflect this, with utensils such as pestles and mortars, old-fashioned cheese graters or meat tenderisers making their way back into cupboards as essential accessories. Aesthetics reflect this with timeless shapes and natural materials that grow more beautiful with time and use," says Balbir Singh Dasila, Associate Professor, School of Design, World University of Design. Najumi Anees, Livpreneur, Livspace, adds, "If you are an environment enthusiast who loves the idea of bringing the outside in, then 'biophilic design' is just for you. Fusing direct or indirect components of nature into the built environment has been known to decrease stress,

blood pressure levels, and heart rate, bringing a sense of calm and well-being."

FUNCTIONALITY MATTERS

Due to the pandemic, more and more people are veering towards sustainable and conscious living. The incline is towards minimalism as far as design philosophies are concerned. "Surfaces made from stone and glass which can be easily sanitised compared to wood are being preferred. Another routine feature for clients has been working out of the kitchen during office hours. This has seen a growth in using the built-in island feature provided by most modular kitchens today. An added table along with charging ports is a respite in any kitchen," says Shweta Shetty, Architect, Shweta Shetty and Associates. Visionnaire uses the latest technologies by partnering with internationally well-known appliance brands to represent a whole series of extremely contemporary features, starting with the intensive use of kitchens in our homes in the last two years. "Mixed steam ovens with traditional blast chillers, large refrigerators with freezers, chromotherapy for the greenhouse of aromatic plants, double



14. Balbir Singh Dasila, Associate Professor, School of Design, World University of Design.

15. Shweta Shetty, Architect, Shweta Shetty and Associates



17

sinks with precious materials and sensors in the taps to be able to purify the water automatically, these and many other functions, including several surprises, are in store in terms of wall and island design," says Eleonore Cavalli, Art Director, Visionnaire.

HOME FIRST

During the pandemic, people largely stayed home, and the kitchen became the place to experiment. "Our newest offering in the kitchen segment, 'Neo Smart Chimney', has unique features and an aesthetic look. We aim to provide the perfect accessory to make space for efficient kitchens for the working Indian population. The Neo Smart Chimney assures high quality, functionality, design, and sustainability. It also offers



19



16

16. Space and storage facility in kitchens are two of the most sought-after provisions while making the decision courtesy MAIA Estates.

17. Kitchen with natural light flowing in courtesy The Mark Décor.

18. Lucida best in class premium gloss range of laminates from CenturyLaminates offers best-in-class product, perfectly suitable for kitchen.

19. The ground-breaking Wellness Architecture by Magppie introduces a profound, patented new generation wellness lighting technology called SUNROOF.



18



24

23

22



20




21

assured warranty to customers and is available pan India," says Subodh Mehta, Sr. Vice President (B2C) Godrej Interio. Nadeem Patni, Managing Director, Blum India, adds, "We have recently added Space Step, a cabinet plinth solution, to the existing innovative storage solutions. This product was developed keeping in mind the ever-increasing need for more storage space in areas which are otherwise left unused and to also provide supreme user convenience in the kitchen and other living spaces. It increases the usable storage space on the one hand and acts as a step for higher wall cabinets like Aventos. It is one of the smart applications which can be combined with the various motion technologies that we offer."

TREND ALERT

Kitchen trends for 2022 are more exciting as they have changed a lot over the decades. Whether people live in their home or a small apartment, they have certainly considered

upgrading their kitchen. Ar. Komal Kapoor, Founder and Head Designer, Design Cubes, says, "Glass acrylic shutters are newly launched and look very classy. They give a look of glass but are acrylic which is a tougher material, easy to maintain since it does not chip off like glass and is also easy to clean. Printed tiles on the floor really elevate the look of a kitchen, either Moroccan or modern geometric ones, both are in trend." Customers want a modular kitchen that blends function with elegance and makes cooking a pleasurable experience. "There is demand for more internal organisation for storage, additional storage, and ease of access. Hence, a preference for soft closing drawers. Mio tall, giving ample storage with aesthetics, is in. Stainless steel hinges are now in demand and different kinds of task lighting options, which are pocket and environment friendly are in vogue," says Ketan Gandhalikar, Head, Furniture & Modular Kitchen, HomeTown. 

WEBSITES:

- **The Works Interiors:** www.theworksinteriors.com
- **CenturyPly:** www.centuryply.com
- **Open Atelier Mumbai:** www.openateliermumbai.com
- **The Mark Décor:** www.themarkdecor.com
- **Capsicum Kitchens and Wardrobes:** www.capsicumkitchens.com
- **Design Cubes:** www.designcubes.in
- **HomeTown:** www.hometown.in
- **MAIA Estates:** www.maiaestates.in
- **Magppie Kitchen:** www.magppie.com
- **Shweta Shetty and Associates:** www.shwetashetty.in
- **Visionnaire:** www.visionnaire-home.com
- **Livspace:** www.livspace.com/in
- **Godrej Interio:** www.godrejinterio.com
- **Blum India:** www.blum.com/in/en

20. Space Step is a cabinet plinth solution to the existing innovative storage solutions courtesy Blum India.

21. The white quartz countertops complimented by glass shutters courtesy The Works Interiors.

22. Eleonore Cavalli, Art Director, Visionnaire

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

24. Nadeem Patni, Managing Director, Blum India