

# Design Right Now

Top interior designers, architects and builders tell us what's new and what's now in Colorado

By ERIN ENGLISH

## Bath Trends

"In the bath, everyone is transitioning from a heavy, traditional look to a **clean, minimalist look**," says Chris Awadalla, designer with Interior Intuitions in Denver. Classic faucets in polished chrome and large-format tiles that require less grout are a few ways to get the look.



COUNTERPOINT FAUCET BY BARBARA BARRY FOR KALLISTA



BECKMAN MARBLE WASHSTAND FOR WATERWORKS

Washstands made of a single material, like Beekman's marble washstand, are coveted by consumers due to their "sculptural" look, says Brooke Erkal, showroom manager for Waterworks in Denver. "The bathroom is a retreat, and people really want things that are beautiful."



ZIVA BY ARTISTIC TILE, DECORATIVE MATERIALS

In the world of tile, one of the hottest items showing up in baths this year is **sculpted tile**, made of stone and even porcelain.



PORTRAIT BY ARTISTIC TILE, DECORATIVE MATERIALS



MADISON TUB BY KEN TIGERSON

When it comes to washing the cares of the day away, the once-coveted jetted tub is now passé, and bathtubs in general are becoming less popular for actually soaking. "People are buying them as sculptural pieces rather than functional pieces," says Brooke Erkal. Egg-shaped or perfectly square freestanding tubs are currently favored over a standard rectangular design.

"Tile is no longer just square and flat—everything has texture and dimension," says Kirsten Schmit, product manager for Decorative Materials. "In Italy they are taking some of the softer stones and carving patterns into them, which is wildly innovative." >

# Kitchen Trends

Technology is playing a larger role than ever in the kitchen, from the massive sharing of creative design ideas through websites such as Houzz and Pinterest to increased efficiency through automation.



Modern cabinets designed with walnut and mahogany are in demand, as are cabinets with unique finishes. "People want a warmer contemporary kitchen; they want it to be eclectic," says Margie McCulloch, owner of Red Pepper Kitchen + Bath Design. "Very often I'll use more than one color on the cabinets."

BLACK CORD CHAISELIER, BRENNAN RAVENHILL

Technology is also making a big impact when it comes to beautifying kitchens. At Decorative Materials in Denver, waterjet-cut glass and tile mosaic backsplashes are a hot item.



CASTILLA FLOWER BY NEW REVIVAL, DECORATIVE MATERIALS

Tom Hartman, President of Kitchen Distributors in Denver, agrees that technology and automation reign. **"We are seeing a lot of automated systems for interior lighting and the opening and closing of drawers."**



83 DESIGN SYSTEM IN WALNUT, BLUTHAUP

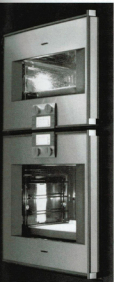
Steam ovens as well as induction cooktops—lauded for being huge energy-savers—were slow to gain acceptance but are now routinely requested by consumers. "We are moving away from pro-style gas ranges," Tom Hartman says. "Induction cooking is becoming really popular. It is fast, precise and easy to clean."

In new kitchen designs and remodels, designers such as Chris Awadalla with Denver's Interior Intuitions are routinely including a designated station for using and charging laptops, tablet computers and cell phones. Once just found in studies and entryways, these stations are now necessary in increasingly high-tech kitchens.

For countertops, consumers still have a love affair with granite and are steadfast supporters of the timeless look. **"Granite is, and will continue to be, the captain of the kitchen. It's durable, beautiful, has wonderful resale value and is a safe choice for homeowners,"** Chris Awadalla says. ▶



BEAUMARTS CO., DENVER



8300 COME STAND OVEN BY MAGNOLIA, KITCHEN DISTRIBUTORS