

A home's heart

Standout kitchens for those with an appetite for entertaining

by Leslee Mason-Gomes

Cabinetry

Though the traditional look remains the reigning queen of cabinet style, the market is slowly shifting. At this year's Eurocucina kitchen trade show in Italy, white and modern was the favoured look in kitchens, says Gruia. Though Europe is usually a couple of years ahead of North America, sleeker, more minimalist lines could already be seen in cabinets at this year's Kitchen/Bath Industry Show in Chicago.

Contemporary and urban looks are particularly hot right now, says Margaret Macdonald, project designer with AyA Kitchens and Baths in Toronto. The urban look tends toward the use of slab cabinets with long pulls. Though still popular, this type of hardware has likely peaked, she says. What you'll soon see more of, says Macdonald, is integrated hardware – tab like pulls that are mounted on top of the cabinet or drawer. The look is streamlined and clean. Whatever your tastes, cabinets are available in a number of different materials and finishes, including laminate, glass, stainless steel and lacquer. But, says Gruia, about 80 percent of all kitchen cabinets are made of wood.



This two-toned AyA kitchen, featuring stacked cabinets and rice paper glass doors, has plenty of hideaway storage space. The custom-designed columns with wrought-iron inserts accentuate the space's 16-foot ceilings.