



Luxury Features Desired in Kitchens

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HURRICANE RELIEF EFFORTS



Our hearts and prayers are with those directly in the path of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria who were severely impacted — residents, first responders and caregivers. If you would like to make a donation of any kind, Samaritan's Purse (www.samaritanaspurse.org) ensures 90% of receipts go to relief efforts. Remember, little is much when we join together in unity to help those in need.

WEDDING NUMBER 4

On a more personal note, Dale and Keely's youngest daughter, Alex, tied the knot with Matthew Myers on Saturday, Sept 23, 2017 in Rome, GA. Alex is the third daughter to wed in the past 11 months; her twin, Ali, married Mac Howard on Sunday, Oct 16, 2016, and Sydney married Caio Nunes on Saturday, June 3, 2017.

Dale and Keely are ecstatic to add yet another fantastic son-in-law to their family group. And now, having paid for the last of four weddings, they are ready to start saving for their future at last! Donations are welcome.



Luxury Features Desired in Kitchens

It is an exciting time to be planning your next kitchen remodeling project! More than ever, designers and manufacturers are getting highly creative as they focus on new ways to make kitchens into everyone's favorite spot in the home. Each family has its individual wants and needs for their kitchen—and today these numerous desires can be met, as incredible as it may seem. From organizational systems, to smart technology, to accessibility—these luxury features are all here and now.

What are some of the luxury features that are in demand by homeowners today? The most recent American Institute of Architects (AIA) Home Design Trends Survey indicates that the desire to entertain friends and family at home is continuing to grow. To help those get-togethers flow smoothly and effortlessly, homeowners are requesting butler pantries, double islands, undercounter appliances, and wine refrigeration and storage options. These items make it possible for several people to be at work in the kitchen at the same time without getting in each other's way—so the homeowner can happily take advantage of offers to help. Depending on their placement, these items may also permit guests to serve themselves, which allows the homeowner to relax as well.

The captivating appeal of new technology and energy-efficiency is behind the mounting demand for induction cooking appliances, device recharging stations, drinking water filtration systems and



Photos: Courtesy of True (www.true-residential.com)

smart appliances. New smart appliances are being introduced on a continual basis, with the promise of providing more convenience and safety in the home.

The passion for adaptability/universal design is rising as increasing numbers of boomers are choosing to age-in-place. Cabinet pull-outs and pull-downs, variable height countertops, and sensor faucets all contribute to accessibility—and these are luxury features that have been showing increased interest since last year. Wider doorways and aisles, plus layered lighting schemes greatly benefit the homeowner as well.

Be sure to consider which of these luxury features you would like included in your kitchen—before you begin your remodeling project. There are so many options, but certain ones are just right for you.





Durat surfaces are made from 100% recycled, post-industrial plastics. This unique material can be used to create countertops, desks, tables, integrated sinks, bathtubs, shower trays and stools.



UNIQUE SURFACES

IceStone surfaces are made from 100% recycled glass and cement. These surfaces are ideal for countertops, back splashes, bathrooms, tabletops, bar tops, fireplace surrounds, conference tables, and reception areas.



Photos: Courtesy of Modern Surfaces (www.modern-surfaces.com)

PaperStone is made from 100% post-consumer recycled paper and a proprietary, petroleum-free resin. PaperStone is recommended for residential kitchen and bath and commercial uses.

Sustainability, with its several principles, is one of the strongest emerging trends in kitchen and bath design today. For example, as a homeowner you may be particularly concerned about healthy home design that promotes well-being for yourself and your family. In addition, energy and water efficiency has most likely become very important to you because it lowers your utility bills.

Still, there are other facets of sustainability that are now coming to the forefront in kitchen and bath design, one of which is

recycling. Each week you place all your old newspapers, glass bottles and aluminum cans in a recycling bin that is regularly picked up curbside. Perhaps you simply think of it as an effortless way to get rid of your trash. But did you know these kinds of items are currently being recycled into attractive new products for the kitchen and bath?

Several manufacturers who passionately believe in sustainability are presently using both consumer and manufacturing waste materials to create beautiful, responsible surfacing materials for the kitchen and bath.

Three of these brands recently partnered together to make their products easily available to homeowners like yourself who are looking for better alternatives to granite and quartz surfaces. Made up of sustainable surfacing brands Durat, IceStone and PaperStone, along with distributors CaraGreen and Cerami Inc., the new company, Modern Surfaces, is driven to create beauty and utility out of waste. Its goal is to positively impact the environment and improve our lives now and in the future.

Control Your Faucet

While you are preparing meals in your kitchen, it goes without saying that your hands will become messy. Of course, you do not want to spread germs by touching your kitchen faucet. There are many different ways to activate a faucet these days without actually touching it, and it is a good idea to carefully consider each one before you make your purchase.

Motion sensor (or Touchless) faucets allow water to flow when motion is detected. You do not have to touch the faucet with messy hands. This feature can help save water, since it will automatically turn off the water when there is no motion.

Touch-sensitive (or Touch-On) faucets will activate with a simple tap anywhere on the faucet. You could use your wrist or elbow, when your hands are messy. This is a much less expensive option than a motion sensor faucet.

FootControl faucets by GROHE are a new option designed for situations when you simply cannot get your hands in a position to turn on the faucet—either by motion or touch—such as when you are holding a heavy pot of water with both hands. A FootControl sensor mounted to the underside of your cabinet connects to a control box that sits inside your cabinetry. Gently tap the sensor with your foot to turn the water on and off. When you do not need to use the foot control, the faucet will still function like a standard kitchen faucet.



Photo: Courtesy of GROHE (www.grohe.us/en_US)



Photo: Courtesy of Brizo (www.brizo.com)



Photo: Courtesy of Moen (www.moen.com)

Hurricane Relief Efforts

Wedding Number 4

Our Design/Build Difference

Luxury Features in Kitchens



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Enriching Lives*

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Our Design / Build Difference

Recently, a gentleman mentioned to our office team, "I'm a bit concerned about conflict of interest in having the design and build be done by the same company." There are often misunderstandings or lack of understanding to the Design/Build remodeling concept and the benefits Design/Build provides to homeowners.

The National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI) states, "Design/Build is a concept developed to benefit the remodeling homeowner by providing both quality design and construction services within the same general contracting company. A Design/Build contractor will be able to see your project through from start to finish, keeping design, engineering and budget in mind."

The initial conversations, design, and estimating are conducted within the team that is building your project. Chances for things to fall through the cracks are greatly diminished.

Design/Build assumes you, the client, WANT to play an active part in the design and construction of their home. During the DeepDiscovery process of our HomeStyle System, we ask questions, give clients questions to think about, learn as much as we can of your goals, desires, and priorities. We welcome your thoughts and ideas. Some clients know EXACTLY what they want and others rely heavily upon the experience and expertise Design/Build offers. Whatever the level, your involvement guarantees that what you want is achieved.

One firm is accountable for everything from concept to the look of the finished renovation. Plans are completed with your goals in mind – not just the beautiful design possibilities but also your budget. Once you're satisfied with your design, we begin sourcing materials and obtaining estimates of costs. Costs are taken into account early on in the process.

Design/Build is based on transparency. The more clients understand the process and know what's going on, the better the partnership. Open, honest, and frequent communication is cornerstone to good partnerships. Not saying what everyone wants to hear, necessarily, but saying what needs to be heard.

This isn't all-inclusive of the benefits afforded by Design/Build but it hopefully provides a broader sense of understanding. Design/Build isn't a "conflict of interest", it provides a "client focused interest" from the very first conversation to ensure your completed renovation truly satisfies the full-scope of your needs and desires.

