

Dream Kitchens & Baths

VINTAGE,
MODERN,
FARMHOUSE
& MORE

GATHER
in **STYLE**
20+ INVITING DESIGNS

RELAXING
BATH
RETREATS

NO-REGRETS
COLOR:
FROM
NEUTRAL
TO BOLD

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Where to Add Color

WHETHER YOU WANT TO ADD JUST A DAB OF COLOR OR A LOT, HERE ARE FOUR WAYS TO BRING COLOR INTO THE KITCHEN.



Cabinetry

Designer Rebekah Zaveloff is seeing more clients interested in adding color with cabinetry, but this doesn't necessarily mean they want to add color throughout the room. Choosing a color for an island and keeping perimeter cabinets more neutral is a popular choice, for example. "Islands are always a good option for color, because it's a very limited space in comparison to the whole kitchen," says Ili Hidalgo-Nilsson, principal of Terracotta Design Build Co. in Decatur, Georgia. You can also use color to accent a particular area of the kitchen. Hidalgo-Nilsson likes to add color to highlight a specific function in the kitchen. "If we have a client who is a big baker, we might have a baking zone and treat that particular area with a color," she says. "Or if they want to do lots of entertaining, we might do the bar area in a color."

Accessories

If large areas of color make you nervous or you want to be able to easily change out the color in your kitchen, consider adding color through accessories, such as lighting, hardware, window treatments, rugs, or upholstery fabric on barstools and banquette chairs. This route might be a good option if you plan to sell your house within a couple years, says Sarah Blank, interior designer and principal of Sarah Blank Design Studio in Greenwich, Connecticut.

Remember that wood is part of your kitchen's color scheme. Some woods have a reddish cast, some are brown, and some can lean toward gray. Be sure to consider whether the colors you choose will complement any wood tones you have in the space.

Tile

Colorful backsplash tile is another way to add vibrancy to a kitchen, either with colorful tiles throughout the room or with a relatively small tile mural above the range. "This is one place where people can get very creative with color in the kitchen," Hidalgo-Nilsson says. "It's not inexpensive to remove, but it doesn't require ripping out your entire kitchen if you decide to replace it at some point." Floor tile is another opportunity for color, and Zaveloff is noticing more people interested in this option. You can opt for subtle, natural hues in stone floors or make a bold statement with decorative encaustic-look tiles that blend vibrant color and pattern.

Wallpaper

The designers we talked to are installing more wallpaper these days, especially in the areas surrounding the kitchen, such as butler's pantries, mudrooms, laundry rooms, and powder rooms. But wallpaper can also be used for an accent wall in the kitchen or to help set off the breakfast area. Wallpaper can be a great choice for people who are timid about adding color, Hidalgo-Nilsson says, because it feels less permanent. She suggests adding wallpaper at the back of glass-front cabinets for a dash of color and pattern. Blank says her firm is installing more wallpaper on the ceiling.



all in the
DETAILS

A thoughtful remodel gives a Chicago kitchen a sense of history and a fresh, modern vibe.

Writer and Field Editor Jennifer Berno DeCleene
Photographer Werner Straube



OPPOSITE A ribbed vase matches the kitchen's clean and classic look. **THIS PHOTO** The custom floating shelves are crafted from the same rift-cut white oak as the island and offer a crisp contrast to dark green base cabinets.



IT'S NO EASY FEAT TO FIND

a maintenance-free new home that's brimming with unique personality and charm. So, when Lauren and Alex Stepien bought their 2006 townhouse in Chicago's Logan Square neighborhood, they knew a "reverse builder-grade" remodel was in their future. They called on the design team at KitchenLab Interiors to add layers of character with a modern-day point of view.

The Stepiens were open to adding a bit of color so the design team proposed mixing deep green wall cabinets with a rift-cut white oak island. "We had ordered a bunch of very cool green cabinet sample blocks with hopes of getting a client to do one at some point," principal designer Rebekah Zaveloff says. "We floated the idea to these clients, and they were game." For the hardwood floor, the designers mixed stain colors to add a gray undertone for a fresh look.

A single slab of Infinity quartzite tops the 10-foot island so that the countertop doesn't have a seam. The same polished stone shows up on the perimeter counters and as a dramatic backsplash behind the range. To keep costs in check, the design team selected a simple white beveled subway tile for the rest of the kitchen.

Thanks to the affordable tile, the Stepiens were able to treat themselves to a multifunctional chef's sink in the island and a 48-inch pro-style range. A custom drywall surround conceals the heavy-duty hood, which features a wood strap that coordinates with nearby floating shelves that hold everyday dishes and glassware.

Storage in the kitchen is enhanced by hidden cabinets under the island overhang for rarely used serving pieces and a tall hutch with ribbed-glass doors that stores extra dishes. "I love to use hutch cabinets to end a run of cabinetry in a space that's open to another room," Zaveloff says. "It's just a more elegant and functional way to finish a kitchen." A pantry at the end of the room offers additional storage for food and supplies and features a pocket door with the same ribbed glass.

To finish the space, the team added a breakfast nook across from the island. Alex had picked up Bertoia chairs and matching counter stools at an estate sale years before the kitchen remodel. Turns out, vintage classics were just what this new old kitchen needed.

RESOURCES BEGIN ON PAGE 92.



OPPOSITE A strategic mix of materials makes the modern kitchen feel timeless. **ABOVE LEFT** Built-in niches at the range corral cooking supplies. **ABOVE RIGHT** The island's matte sheen pulls out the natural grain in the white oak. **BELOW LEFT** Beveled subway tile frames the refrigerator and pantry door. **BELOW RIGHT** Brushed-gold pulls show off a subtle angular design.

