

MIDLAND *Room by Room*

FINE CABINETS & MILLWORK

The Kitchen

A Nourishing Space, the Kitchen Commands Special Attention

There is no room as nurturing, in function and atmosphere, as the kitchen. It is the hub of the home, the central gathering place, whether it's to eat or cook or just hang out with family and friends.

Every homeowner has dreams of creating the perfect kitchen, and it can be done, but with a caveat: When it comes to making those dream designs come true, there is no room in the home that requires as much attention to both detail and layout.



The traditional kitchen is a classic for what it is: a clean canvas for legacy detailing.

At Midland Cabinet Company, kitchens are our specialty. We know our way around the kitchen, and we know that while the personality of every kitchen varies, there is one common ingredient: design consistency.

Before jumping in, know that the exterior

appearance of the kitchen is normally built around one of four foundational design styles — traditional, transitional, rustic or contemporary.

The Kitchen, by Tradition

Traditional kitchens are the kitchens that most of us identify with, the tried-and-true, modified Colonial or Cape Cod-styled kitchen that pleases the eye for what they aren't: ornate or overwhelming — which is far from implying that the traditional kitchen is dull or cookie-cutter in styling.

The traditional kitchen is a classic for what it is: a clean canvas for legacy detailing, from fine beaded molding and inset doors on the face-frame cabinets that dominate traditional-kitchen design, to crown molding atop the cabinets and the use of the footed-base at floor level — a trick of the trade that gives built-in elements, such as sink cabinets and islands, a “furniture” look.

Most traditional kitchens are painted in shades of white. Oak is a popular traditional-kitchen wood — especially the use of quarter-sawn English oak on cabinetry, which provides both durability and visual character. As with the footed base, the use of quarter-sawn wood detailing creates a furniture-quality appearance.



By design definition, this Napa Valley kitchen is rustic in styling.

Transitional Styling

The transitional kitchen is, as its name suggests, a kitchen in transit between traditional and contemporary styling. The Shaker-reminiscent look of the traditional kitchen is muted in the transitional kitchen — there is less detailing, with clean, straight lines taking precedence over beaded or raised bolection molding.

Transitional kitchens can also draw inspiration from contemporary, modern design elements.

In short, the transitional kitchen allows more freedom to innovate and create, while still maintaining the basic transitional-kitchen tenet: to strike a balance between the traditional kitchen and the

all-out contemporary one.

Contemporary Kitchens

Contemporary kitchens are modern kitchens, stylishly rendered to suit both the homeowner's needs and aesthetics.

Cabinetry in the contemporary kitchen is sleek and unadorned, which means it does not rely on face-frame molding and paneling common in the traditional kitchen, or often included in transitional kitchen design. Contemporary kitchen cabinets are frameless, or European, in style. The lack of added wood detailing frees up interior storage space and maintains the room's overall clean and open appearance.

Cabinet handles in the contemporary kitchen tend to be recessed within the wood, as opposed to the visible knobs and pulls used in the traditional kitchen. And the cabinets themselves are often designed to “float,” meaning they are not installed flush to the floor but can end upwards of 12 inches above it.

At Home in Any Kitchen

Design professionals use the basic tenets of kitchen styling to create what homeowners desire for this most nurturing of spaces. But like anything else, there are exceptions to the rules. The following elements transcend what is traditional, transitional or contemporary.

Islands: These popular, functional, beautifully rendered workspaces are at home in any kitchen, whatever the basic styling may be. The reason: They can be rendered to match whatever styling exists around them. In the traditional kitchen for example, islands are often used to bring color and accent to the mostly white palette. Choosing a stain-grade hardwood such as oak can add drama and warmth



All kitchens have important details that must be addressed in the initial design.

to the traditional kitchen's clean, crisp look.

Lighting: LED (light-emitting diode) lighting is one of the fastest-growing trends in home design. Its use has nothing to do with kitchen styling — and everything to do with what LEDs represent: energy efficiency, extended bulb life and low heat emissions. And forget old concerns about the color of the light emitted: modern LED lighting covers the spectrum, from very white to incandescent.

Reclaimed wood: Whether it's from an old barn or vintage farmhouse, reclaimed wood is a great way to add character to a kitchen — and it can be manipulated to fit into any design style, traditional to contemporary, rustic to transitional.

A Word of Caution: *Don't Go It Alone*

Take it from Midland Cabinet Company, the only way to successfully create the perfect kitchen is to call on the services of a qualified design professional.

"There are very important details that must be addressed when it comes to designing a kitchen," cautions Midland founder Rob Boynton. "And that's why it's also important to work with a professional from the beginning. If you don't, any mistakes made early on will be expensive to fix down the road."

The kitchen is a complex space, and unifying all its elements takes knowledge and experience. There is equipment to consider, and that equipment is intimately connected to how the room is both used and structured.

In the parlance of the trade, the layout of the kitchen is based on a magical triangle — everything in the room is tied to that triangle, which in turn is specific to the room's function and overall usage.

The floor, cabinets, countertops, drawers, windows, molding, wall surfaces, ceiling, islands, you name it — all have to be considered and united or the kitchen "triangle" will fall apart, and so will your dream kitchen, not to mention your budget.



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