

Home & Design

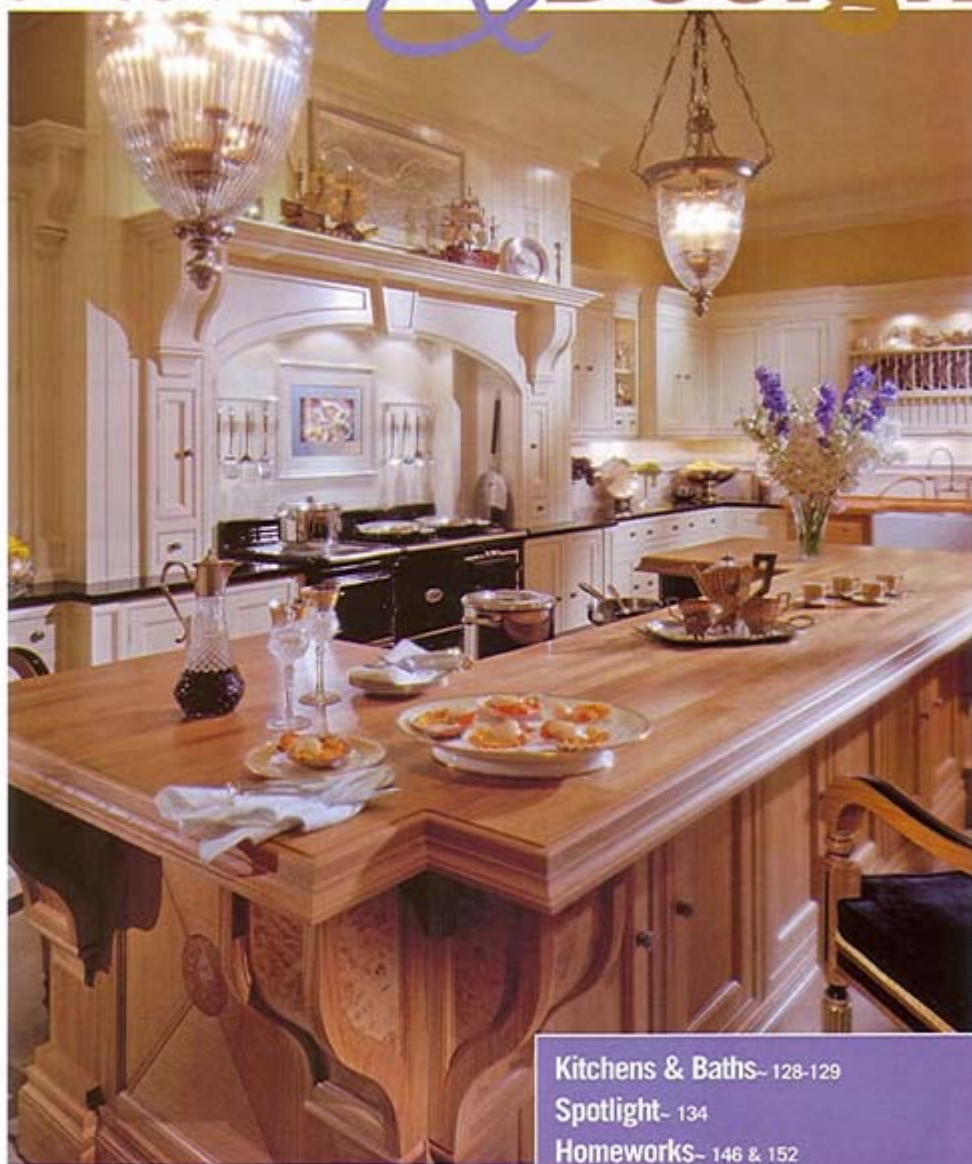


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Classy Kitchens & Beautiful Baths

by Janet Sadowski

No doubt about it, the kitchen is the heart of the home. While entertaining, how many times have you found that most of your guests wind up socializing in the kitchen? A kitchen is also one of the first areas potential homebuyers investigate when considering a purchase, and it is also the one area of the house that sees the most renovations. There is little wonder why the kitchen business is such a thriving industry. With limitless possibilities and several very talented kitchen design firms on the East End,

updating or renovating your kitchen can be downright fun and even affordable.

Start with the basics. If your current cabinets are in good structural shape, you can dramatically improve the look of the kitchen by simply refacing them. Kitchen designers agree that this is one of the easiest ways to update the space. From veneers to carved panels to a coat of paint, the procedure is relatively affordable.

As far as countertops go, granite, tile, stainless steel, marble, wood and

cement are popular materials to work with and due to the unlimited choice of colors and textures, finding the perfect match is not too difficult.

Several designers suggest carrying the architectural style of the house into the kitchen. A modern stainless steel kitchen might look slightly out of place in an old Victorian, however there are no hard and fast rules. If stainless steel is your favorite, go with it. The key is to make your kitchen reflect your tastes.

The trend in kitchen colors is that of softer and quieter hues. Gone are the days when "Avocado Green" and "Mustard Yellow" were the primary color selections. Light blues, airy yellows and sheer washes are becoming increasingly popular.

Appliances run the gamut from standard big box store brands to designer stainless steel. Kitchen designers suggest that if you choose a particular style, you should try to have all the appliances of the same style and material.

Some tips when planning or renovating a new kitchen include the following: Make seating areas round; separate islands for smooth traffic flow; consider adding antique accents; pay attention to color and texture; take into consideration the best places for work areas and if they will be in easy reach of the stove and sink; and finally have fun! It is your kitchen no matter how you slice it.

The second most important space in a house is the bathroom. Our oasis from the hectic pace of



everyday life, retreating to the bath for a soothing soak is one of life's greatest pleasures. Today's bathrooms are modern day sanctuaries—complete with steam showers, Jacuzzis, his and her sinks, oversize tubs, soothing lighting, aromatherapy, stereo systems, stunning tile work, individual climate control and more.

While it may not be possible to incorporate all of the above into a bathroom, it is possible to add touches of luxury without breaking the bank. Investing in thick, luxurious towels is one way to feel like a king. Nothing feels better than drying off with a thick nubby towel. Also consider purchasing a thick spa robe to wrap yourself in comfort. Simple touches like candles and dishes of potpourri add soothing scents to the room and can even be made at home.

Bath designers agree that color plays a huge role in the mood of the room. Most designers lean towards colors that are muted and soft. Vivid color accents can be added with the use of tile work on the floor, walls or tub. Adding touches like bamboo rugs and widow treatments and lush green plants introduces a natural feel to the room.

Lighting is key to a bathroom environment. While direct lighting over vanity mirrors is a good idea, most designers prefer to use indirect light for the rest of the room. Skylights are very popular and bring sunshine and natural lighting to the space.

The latest trend in sinks is his and her vanities. The days of sharing a sink are long gone. Also history is the plain white sink. Today's sinks border on works of art. From blown glass to hand-tiled, the choices are

endless and are an important design element. Sink and bath hardware has also been brought up a notch. From brushed nickel to solid gold, turning on the tap can be a visual treat.

If a Jacuzzi or hot tub is out of reach, there are spa devices that can be hung over the edge of a tub. These gadgets provide bubbling streams of water and work just as well as the real thing.

Renovating or designing a kitchen or bath is far from an impossible task. For those blessed with imagination, this is your chance to really show your talents. For the rest of us, there are thankfully some very talented folks only too happy to help you design the kitchen or bath of your dreams. ■



LandMark Development, 631.256.0034



Spirit of France, Southampton 631.287.9800



- Spirit of France, Southampton, 631.287.9800
- Sherie Wagner International, New York, 212.758.3300
- Central Kitchens, Southampton, 631.283.1029
- John Packard Cabinetry, Sea Cliff, 516.671.1515
- Clive Christian, Manhasset, 516.365.2885
- Domain Home Fashions, www.domain-home.com
- Design Studio, Bridgehampton, 631.537.1999
- LandMark Development, 631.256.0034

Divine Design

by Janet Sadowski

1. Good Scents

Fragrantly beautiful candles light up summer nights.
O'Suzanna!, Westhampton Beach,
631.283.2202



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2. Pass the Buck-et

Far from utilitarian, these buckets are both beautiful and useful.

C. Whitmore's Gardens, Amagansett,
631.267.3182



3. Free Wheeling

Store all your art supplies in this vividly-hued rolling storage unit.

Lucille's Beach Barn, Westhampton Beach,
631.288.1880

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4. Winging It

Our feathered friends get the royal treatment with this beautiful pedestal bath.

Aspatuck Gardens, Westhampton Beach,
631.288.3222

5. Remarkable Mesquite

Aptly named Mesquite and crafted entirely from mesquite wood harvested in Texas, the tile is truly extraordinary in its durability and natural style.

Ann Sacks, 800.278.8453,
www.annsacks.com

6. Retro Active

AGA's old-fashioned styling houses true modern-day convenience.

Domain Home Fashions, www.domain-home.com



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