

The background image shows a bright, modern dining room. In the center is a white, tulip-shaped pedestal table surrounded by six light-colored wooden chairs with curved backs. On the table sits a small white bowl with greenery and a wooden serving dish. The floor is covered with a black and white geometric patterned rug. Large multi-paned windows in the background offer a view of a lush green landscape. A large indoor plant is visible on the left side of the frame.

THE CONNECTICUT DESIGN GUIDE 2022

\$19.95

FROM THE EDITORS OF

CTC&G

DESIGNING YOUR DREAM HOUSE | EMBRACING THE OUTDOORS | YOUR SMART HOME
DREAMING OF KITCHENS AND BATHS | READY, SET, DECORATE! | SHOPPING IN STYLE

DREAMING OF KITCHENS BATHS

Our homes have been operating at full capacity of late, practically 24/7. The takeaway for many homeowners — their kitchens and bathrooms were either inadequate or outdated, lacking in functionality and style. We asked the experts in the field to fill us in on what's trending in kitchen and bath design. Here's what they had to say.

FEATURING:

Majestic Kitchens & Bath
Torroco Design Center



AS SEEN IN
THE CONNECTICUT
**DESIGN
GUIDE**
2022
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MOTIVATION FOR RENOVATION

“MOST CLIENTS WANT TO UPDATE THEIR KITCHEN—FROM AESTHETICS TO APPLIANCES. BY DOING THIS, PEOPLE ARE INCREASING THE VALUE OF THEIR HOME. I TRY TO ENCOURAGE CUSTOMERS TO THINK MORE ABOUT WHAT THEY WANT, RATHER THAN WHAT SOMEONE ELSE WILL LIKE. NEW BUYERS ARE EITHER GOING TO LOVE YOUR KITCHEN OR REPLACE EVERYTHING.” —**Ria Rueda**

“So many older homes in Connecticut have narrow galley kitchens closed off from the rest of the house. The request is often to take out a wall, enlarge the space and add an island.” —**Christine Donner**

“People are spending more time at home than ever and are looking for a quality-of-life transformation. Priorities are timeless design, great storage, expanded work surfaces and high-performance appliances.” —**Joseph Najmy**



WE ASK THE EXPERTS

Christine Donner
Christine Donner Design
donnerkitchens.com

Buffy Goodwin
Deane
deaneinc.com

Jennifer Michael
Jennifer Michael Design
jennifermichaeldesign.com

Joseph Najmy
Nukitchens
nukitchens.com

Ria Rueda
Monogram Design Center/
Aitoro
aitoro.com

Darren Watts
Wren Kitchens
wrenkitchens.com

“AESTHETICS ARE OFTEN THE DRIVING FORCE FOR A RENOVATION, AS HOMEOWNERS MAY BE LIVING WITH DATED DÉCOR AND WOULD LIKE SOMETHING FRESH, CLEAN AND NEW. I THINK MOST PEOPLE BEGIN A PROJECT TO UPGRADE AN EXISTING SPACE AND, IN THE PROCESS, ADD VALUE TO THEIR HOME.” — **Buffy Goodwin**

FAMILIES VS. DOWNSIZERS

“Young families with kids really want to get organized and get on top of the clutter with homework stations, drop zones and mudrooms for all the stuff. Downsizers know their own taste, are confident in their choices and are very open to ways to simplify. They are not looking for status brands.” —**Christine Donner**

“YOUNG COUPLES WITH GROWING FAMILIES NEED SPACE! THEY LIKE OPEN FLOOR PLANS WITH KITCHENS OPEN TO FAMILY ROOMS AND OTHER LIVING SPACES FOR EVERYDAY LIVING AND ENTERTAINING.” —**Buffy Goodwin**

“While everyone has the same basic needs for bathrooms, I do find families with young children ask for bathtubs and lots of storage. People also consider this for resale. Requests include a separate bathroom for children and, in some cases, each child. As a designer, I can try to tailor the look of the bathroom to the child.” —**Jennifer Michael**



“YOUNG FAMILIES WANT DURABILITY. DOWNSIZERS ARE NOT LOOKING FOR RESALE AS MUCH, AND ARE LOOKING TO GET EXACTLY WHAT THEY WANT IN TERMS OF STYLE.” —**Joseph Najmy**

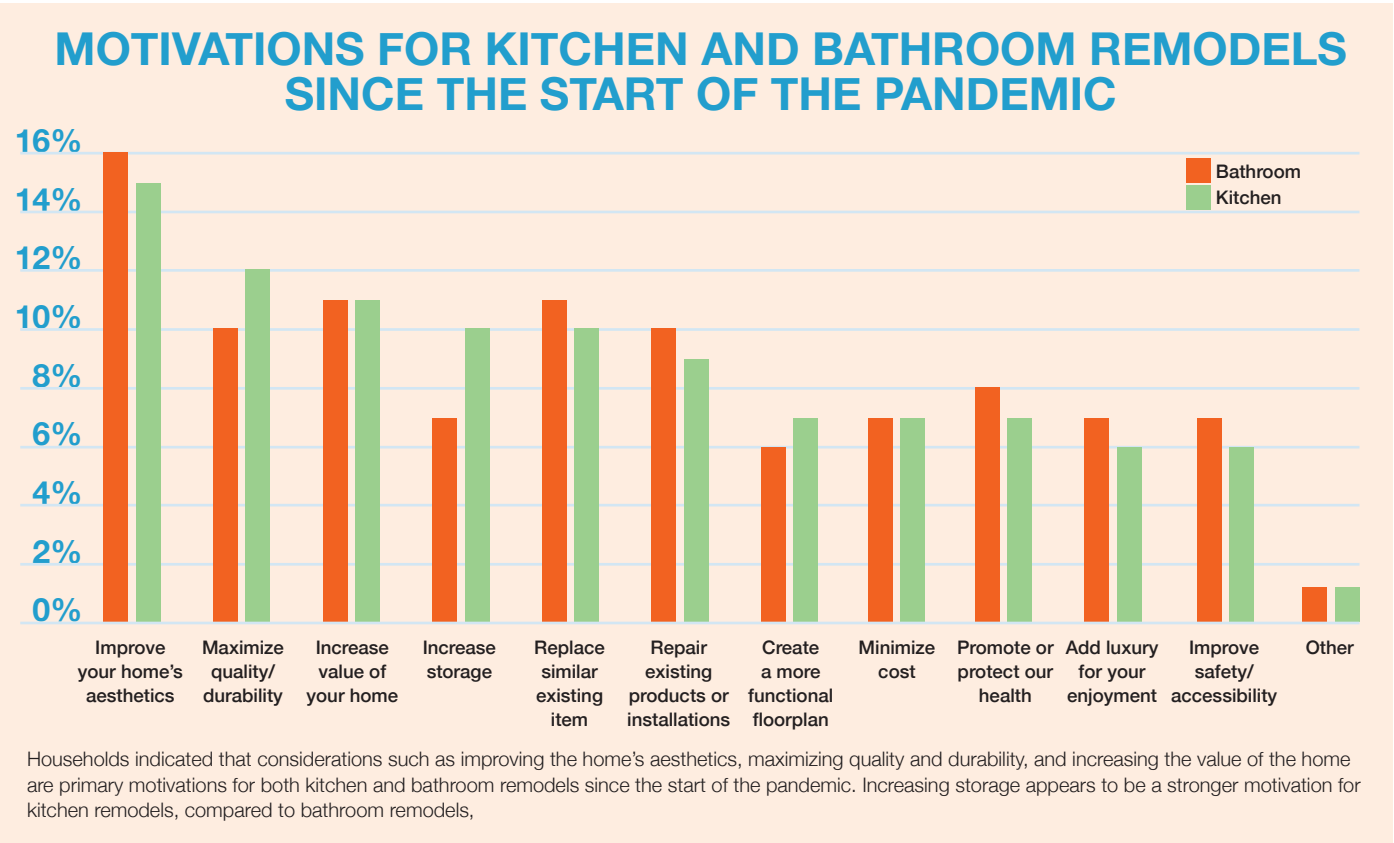
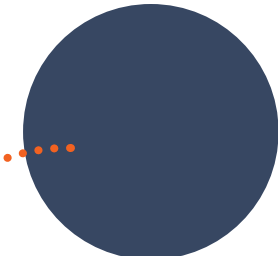


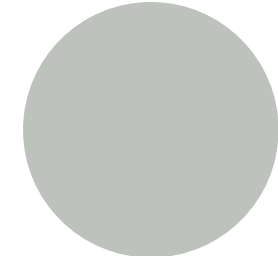
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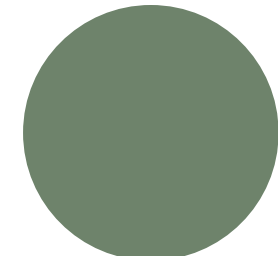
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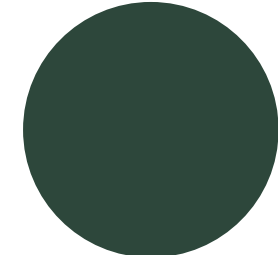
Night Creatures
Curator
curatorpaints.com.



Comfort Gray
HGTV Home by Sherwin-Williams
hgtvhomebysherwinwilliams.com



Calke Green 34
Farrow & Ball
farrow-ball.com.



Hunter Green
Benjamin Moore
benjaminmoore.com.

COLOR

“LIGHT, BRIGHT, TEXTURAL MATERIALS CREATE A BALANCED PALETTE. PAINT FINISHES, OVERALL, REMAIN A FORM OF WHITE, BUT WE ARE SEEING ROBUST COLORS LIKE GREEN, CHARCOAL AND BLUE.” —Joseph Najmy

“Light, pastel colors are growing in popularity at the moment and soft natural-looking worktops never go out of style.” —Darren Watts

“WE ARE SEEING COLORED KITCHENS IN DARK BLUES, SHADES OF GREEN AND GRAYS. HIGH GLOSS LACQUER IS POPULAR IN KITCHENS, BARS AND BUTLER’S PANTRIES. COLORED APPLIANCES ADD A POP OF COLOR. LACORNUE, BLUE STAR, LACANCHE, VIKING, DACOR, KITCHENAID AND SMEG ARE A FEW BRANDS THAT HAVE COLORED OPTIONS IN THEIR COLLECTIONS.” —Buffy Goodwin

WISH LISTS

“STEAM OVENS AND DOCKING DRAWERS [OUTLETS AND CHARGING STATIONS INSIDE DRAWERS FOR ELECTRONICS] ARE IN HIGH DEMAND. SPLURGE ITEMS INCLUDE CUSTOM METAL HOODS AND HIGH-END RANGES LIKE LACANCHE.” —Christine Donner

“Clients seem willing to splurge on luxury, notably, large, freestanding tubs and showers with lots of bells and whistles.” —Jennifer Michael

“Kitchen wish lists often include fridge drawers, undercounter wine coolers, good pantry storage, and, of course, the essential island that serves many functions as a prep table, eat-in kitchen table and homework counter. Sustainability-wise, more people are asking specifically for low- to no-VOCs, materials with a low carbon footprint and water-filtration systems. Many clients request a composting bin in a dedicated pullout, just like trash and recycling.” —Buffy Goodwin



WHAT’S
TRENDING

“Combining different surfaces, textures and colors in both kitchens and baths. We may use a rift cut, wire brushed oak for the island and pair it with a matte lacquer door on the perimeter.” —Buffy Goodwin

“More horizontal lines, lift doors, handle-free cabinetry, porcelain countertops with book-matched backsplashes, pantries with pocket doors and fully customized storage.” —Joseph Najmy

“Floating shelves, multiple dishwashers, custom hinges and panels for appliances, brass in polished or brushed finishes, outdoor kitchens.” —Ria Rueda

“I am seeing a lack of interest in ornamentation —no corbels or onlays, no more trophy kitchens, cleaner lines, stronger colors, much more practical and contemporary or transitional styles, open floor plans and bigger islands.” —Christine Donner



MTI BATHS

MATERIALS LIST



MONOGRAM

TILE: “I often get requests for something ‘different.’ People don’t want cookie-cutter bathrooms. One way to make the bathroom unique is through interesting tile work—it could be with pattern, a layout design or a bold color.” —Jennifer Michael

RANGE HOODS: “STONE HOODS ARE INCREDIBLY BEAUTIFUL AND UNEXPECTED.” —Buffy Goodwin



WOOD-MODE CABINETRY

FIXURES/HARDWARE: “Black hardware and faucets are a beautiful punctuation to a light kitchen and look very modern in any setting, plus they pair well with black mullioned windows and doors.” —Buffy Goodwin

CABINETRY: “CABINETRY HAS EVOLVED TO INCLUDE A WIDER RANGE OF CUSTOMIZATION, FROM GLASS TO GLOSS, AND A MIX OF TRADITIONAL ELEMENTS WITH MODERN CONTEMPORARY STYLES AND CLEAN LINES.” —Joseph Najmy



TRUE RESIDENTIAL

APPLIANCES: “I make a point to ask more questions about my clients’ lifestyle and how they use their kitchen—there may be appliances they never thought of that may be of interest to them. Recently, there have been a lot of inquiries about refrigeration, especially refrigerator drawers, speed ovens and steam ovens. Clients who are tech-savvy love the convenience of Wi-Fi connected appliances.” —Ria Rueda

STORAGE: “People want their own designated space in the bathroom. Storage is important and needs to be both functional and attractive. Clients don’t want to see outlets, so they are asking for plugs and charging stations to be hidden inside cabinets or drawers. Organization inside cabinets and drawers is requested for things like styling tools and cosmetics.” —Jennifer Michael

COUNTERTOPS: “Lately people have been very practical about countertops and want no-maintenance quartz. No more blowing the budget on a rare marble.” —Christine Donner



NUKITCHENS