



Knock down walls. Opening up your space will change the look of your home and create visual communication with other rooms in the house.



designer profile: JASON LANDAU

Making Your Kitchen an Amazing Space

Known for his artistic passion and vision, New York-based kitchen designer Jason Landau has the ability and expertise to make dreams come true. Landau, who has a master's degree in architecture from Tulane University, has been creating kitchens that range from traditional to contemporary for more than twenty years. For the last three years he's been at the helm of his own company, Amazing Spaces, making a bold impact in some of the hottest homes in the country. BY MARY BETH STANLEY





How would you describe your design style?

My personal preference leans toward a transitional style (a blend between traditional and modern styles). I strongly believe, however, that I need to be flexible to accommodate the style and tastes of my client. I never try to project my personal style on a project; I always address the function of the space first, followed by the aesthetic.

Tell us about the top trends in kitchen design today.

Dark woods, clean lines and simplicity are very strong today. Opening up the space, so the kitchen is more closely related to the living space in the home, continues to be very popular.

What are the hot colors for today's kitchen?

Light, neutral paint colors such as cream and white are used for a more contemporary look (but use the colors you love); glazed finishes are often requested for a more traditional kitchen. Dark woods such as cherry are being used in all styles of kitchen design.

Are stainless appliances still the finish of choice?

When we are not covering appliances with panels to match the cabinetry, stainless is by far the first choice. There is also a new bronze finish being introduced to the market.

We love the richness of a granite coun-

tertop. Are there alternatives to this classic that you would recommend?

Granite is a great choice, and there are so many variations to choose from. But for clients who want to step out of the box, concrete is a fabulous choice. It is expensive to fabricate, however, and not as stain and scratch-resistant as granite. Wood, glass and metal also offer clients a unique look, but people should consider their lifestyle; i.e., how much care they are willing to devote to their countertop, and their tolerance for imperfections and wear.

Is it possible to have both luxury and durability in kitchen flooring?

Yes. Hardwood floors are a nice choice because many kitchens are now open to other parts of the home, such as the family room. The continuous flow is important to many people. There are many manufacturers that offer long-wear warranties on pre-finished flooring. Stone floors are also a beautiful choice, and for those who worry about the durability of a stone floor, there are many porcelain look-a-likes that are virtually indestructible.

Can you suggest cosmetic changes or luxe touches that will give a kitchen a new look without a complete renovation?

There are three simple changes that can give your kitchen a new look. Change the countertops and/or backsplash, purchase new cabinet hardware and change the lighting, adding new decorative fixtures.

Make it personal. Your kitchen should be a true reflection of you. Use the colors that you love and the style or combination of styles that you've always dreamed of.

Jason's Dream Kitchen Tips

1. Consult with a designer as early as possible in your project.
2. Analyze your space, or better still, have a professional designer analyze it. You will be surprised at how well you can utilize the space you already have.
3. Knock down walls. Opening up your space will change the look of your home and create visual communication with other rooms in the house.
4. Add more windows. Natural light is what creates a warm and welcoming environment.
5. Pay attention to lighting. Be sure to have a combination of general, task and decorative lighting to make your kitchen a warm yet functional space.
6. Remember that a great kitchen is about function, efficiency and how you live your life.
7. Make it personal. Your kitchen should be a true reflection of you. Use the colors that you love and the style or combination of styles that you've always dreamed of.