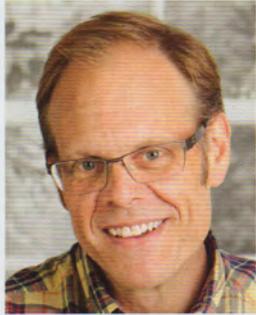


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**COOK LIKE A STAR!**



**Alton's**  
MAC AND  
CHEESE



**Ree's**  
CARAMEL  
APPLES



**Robert's**  
SCOTCH  
EGGS



**FUN**  
HALLOWEEN  
TRICKS!

**BRIGHT COLORS**

Think beyond accessories and bring color into your kitchen in a big way.

*New*  
**Soup**  
**Ideas!**

Like this pumpkin-apple soup with crumbled bacon

GREAT, EASY  
*Meatballs*

**YUM!**  
Salted Caramel Tart

BONUS BOOKLET:  
**50** Recipes with  
CANNED PUMPKIN



**Cool combo**

Lime and aqua are two strong colors, but green and blue are next to each other on the color wheel, so they work well together, explains designer Jennifer Ott about her own kitchen. She kept the painted surfaces to a minimum so she could easily switch to a new color scheme when she's ready for a change.

DESIGNED BY: LOOP DESIGN

Make your own soft pretzels (page 145)

# BRIGHT COLORS

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DESIGNED BY: LOOP DESIGN

# Kitchen's Newest Trends

All the latest kitchen design tips for improving your space

BY WANDA PERKINS

→ This parakeet green kitchen features firefly pendants from CB2; cabinetry by IKEA, with custom pecan fronts and shelving; and a self-leveling concrete overlay floor. Kitchen Design by Jennifer Ott, Loop Design; Architect: Christy Seals, Loop Design; Builder: Jason Williams, Shoal Creek Construction; Photographer: Patrick Wong, Atelier Wong.

## IMAGINE YOU'RE THE

grand prize recipient of a fabulous kitchen makeover with all the latest trends in design, appliances, gadgets and features. What would you change? How would you turn your space into the kitchen of your dreams?

First, consider the concept of design, both workability and sustainability of your space. "What I see as critical to kitchen design is improving the ways in which family and friends can be connected together, as the kitchen continues to assert itself as the hub of domestic life," states David O'Brien Wagner AIA, Principal, SALA Architects in Minneapolis, Minnesota. "Today's kitchens are open to adjoining eating and gathering spaces, while incorporating elements of daylight, views to the outside and good air flow."

"Window seats and eating nooks also give guests and children a place to sit and chat with the cook without being underfoot," adds Jennifer Ott, Designer at Loop Design in Austin, Texas. "Walk-in pantries are popular for storing dry and oversized items. Also, replacing wall and upper cabinetry with shelving or windows creates open kitchen space, making utensils more guest-accessible."

Connectedness definitely is a key word for today's kitchens, which often operate as small workstations. "The kitchen often functions as the IT hub where you plug in cell phones, iPods, and laptops," notes Ott. "Homeowners can search recipes, check email, and play music while preparing and cooking meals."

The latest kitchen appliances are not like those of the past. High-tech and energy

efficient appliances are replacing the old with the new. High-performance, induction cook tops, induction ranges, ranges with two ovens, built-in wall combination ovens, steam ovens and microwaves (for healthy food preparation), and column refrigeration that accommodates various kitchen sizes are the latest appliance trends.

"Stainless steel remains the popular choice. Some homeowners like incorporating wood overlays or wood panels to match custom cabinetry," states

Errin Bjerke, Appliance Specialist with Ferguson Bath, Kitchen & Lighting Gallery. "Appliance manufacturers are providing more flush-mount options. Also new are white and black glass options, trimmed with stainless steel, that mirror the look of iTechnology. Homeowners are more budget-conscious of how much they're spending on coffee at high-end coffee shops, estimating the cost of a built-in unit will typically pay for themselves in 2-3 years. Plus, they'll enjoy gourmet coffee at home!"



↑ Errin Bjerke, Appliance Specialist with Ferguson Bath, Kitchen & Lighting Gallery, Fargo, ND.



↑ Jennifer Ott, Designer, Loop Design, Austin, TX.

→ Sleek, sophisticated and high-performance, today's appliances are high on technology and style! Whirlpool's Ice Collection balances stainless steel against sparkling white and black. Photo courtesy Ferguson Bath, Kitchen & Lighting Gallery.



↑ Wrap around windows and open shelving give this small kitchen an inviting and spacious feel. Design by David O'Brien Wagner, SALA Architects, Prairie/Modern, Minneapolis, MN. Photographer: Troy Thies.

Today's homeowners are looking beyond just lighting and appliances, when considering energy efficiency and green designs in their kitchens. "Homeowners and their architects should carefully consider the embodied-energy in each of the materials that are brought into living and cooking spaces," adds Wagner. "Choosing locally sourced materials, recycled materials, and reclaimed items can have a profound impact on the overall ecological footprint of your home."

Don't forget to consider color options! Whether trendy or individual, everybody has a preference. "Gray has overtaken beige as the new neutral, and citrus-greens and watery blues are showing up in the latest kitchens," states Ott. "Bold colors are in! Remember to incorporate color into items that are easy and affordable to change, such as wall paint and accessories."

Backsplashes are not going away either! "Folks are getting more and more daring when it comes to backsplashes," concludes Ott. "Back-painted glass and colorful tiles look great with quartz countertops that are extremely popular right now."

→ David O'Brien Wagner AIA, Principal, SALA Architects in Minneapolis, MN.



What's on the horizon for kitchen trends in 2013? "LED lighting is making big strides in the marketplace," notes Wagner. "We'll see high-quality designs with low power consumption, good color rendering, and 50,000 hour lamp life in down lights, pendants, and under-cabinet lighting."

"Open kitchens will remain popular, as will stainless steel finishes for appliances," adds Bjerke. New black and white glass finishes will likely be a popular alternative. Additionally, kitchen range hoods with LED lighting and design options and outdoor kitchen spaces will increasingly become more popular."

Today's homeowners are embracing technology. "People are getting savvy about home design. They watch home renovation and design shows and visit websites and read blogs," adds Ott. "Individuals want to

*"What I see as critical to kitchen design is improving the ways in which family and friends can be connected together, as the kitchen continues to assert itself as the hub of domestic life," states David O'Brien Wagner AIA, Principal, SALA Architects in Minneapolis, Minnesota.*



← Prefer a bit of kitchen color? A Caesarstone countertop and island accents a stainless steel range and hood by Wolf and dishwasher by Miele. Kitchen design by Jennifer Ott, Loop Design; Architect: Christy Seals, Loop Design; Builder: Jason Williams, Shoal Creek Construction; Photographer: Patrick Wong, Atelier Wong.

express themselves via their kitchen and design an inviting showplace in which they'll enjoy spending time."

Like clothing and hairstyles, styles change. Design trends and gadgets will come and go, but timeless, functional kitchen space planning, energy efficiency and family and friends will always find their way into the kitchen. Design a kitchen space that works for your lifestyle. Add a bit of preference and some heart. You'll soon be on your way to transforming your dream kitchen into a reality. ✨

**ConsumerReports**

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# KITCHEN

planning & buying guide

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#### CABINETS AND SHELVES

The homeowners had custom pecan fronts made for standard Ikea cabinet boxes, creating a high-end look for far less than the cost of custom cabinets. Matching floating shelves complete the look.

#### SHINE AND COLOR

Reflective surfaces lend light and air. Bright splashes of green and aqua add energy to the otherwise neutral space. Designer tip: "Use bold color in areas that are easy to change, like walls—not countertops or tile," Ott says.

#### SEAMLESS SURFACES

The couple chose quartz over granite, partly because the material is available in larger pieces, allowing seamless installation. Along the perimeter counters they ran the quartz 6 inches up the wall, creating a low backsplash that eliminated the need for tile.

# In perfect balance

A designer's kitchen remodel makes the most of every penny spent.

Finding just the right house for sale in just the right neighborhood is easier said than done. At least that's what interior designer Jennifer Ott and her husband Russell Poldrack discovered when they moved to Austin, Texas, from Los Angeles. Their dream location just didn't offer the charming, older home they'd imagined buying. So they compromised, settling on an ideally situated house that needed some serious transformation.

Working with architect Christy Seals of Austin's Loop Design, the couple began reimagining the main floor. "Originally, the living room, dining room, and kitchen were three separate spaces," Ott says. "We wanted a bigger kitchen because we love to cook, and [we] aren't formal dining types, so we took down the walls between the rooms to create one, open multi-purpose area." To control expenses, Ott and Poldrack worked around the locations of the sink and range so that they wouldn't have to move utility lines; made a list of priorities so they could focus their budget on a few must-haves, such as a 36-inch range and an oversized island; and used bold color to inject designer style.

"It wasn't exactly a 'budget' remodel," Ott says. "But I think we made the most of what we spent. And the results are truly worth every penny."



The existing kitchen was serviceable but small, and it felt closed off from adjacent living spaces.



#### COORDINATED LIGHTING

Ott found the dining area light fixtures first, installing three fixtures end-to-end over the table for dramatic effect. And "because the dining/kitchen/living room is one open space, I tried to avoid the 'lighting showroom' look by picking styles that were similar in shape and finish," she says.

#### FRUGAL FLOORING

Another money-saving move was using a resinous concrete overlay floor. "It's self-leveling and only 1/4-inch thick—much less expensive than installing hardwood or tile would have been," Ott says.

#### CEILING HEIGHTS

Removing the wall between the old kitchen and living room meant installing a hefty beam to support the weight of the home's second story. "We had to box in that beam, which runs along the outer edge of the island," Ott says, "so we continued the lower height in an 'L' over the dining area. That makes it look like an intentional design decision and helps the dining area feel cozy while keeping the kitchen ceiling nice and high."



Instead of the large formal dining room the couple never used (see below, through doorway), the new space has a cozy eating area, complete with extra storage inside a built-in bench.



## Splurge or Save?

"I tell my clients to make a list of their must-haves, so they can decide how to maximize their budget," homeowner and designer Jennifer Ott says. When she and husband Russell Poldrack remodeled their kitchen, she followed her own good advice, splurging in some areas and saving on others. Here's how:

#### Layout

**Splurged:** Removed walls between kitchen, living room, and dining room to open plan.  
**Saved:** Kept appliances and sink in existing locations to avoid moving plumbing and gas lines.

#### Appliances

**Splurged:** Indulged in the 36-inch pro-style range they really wanted.  
**Saved:** Skipped installing double ovens and bought a mid-range fridge.

#### Cabinets

**Splurged:** Had pecan fronts custom-made for base cabinets.  
**Saved:** Used Ikea base cabinet boxes and floating shelves instead of wall cabinets.

#### Countertops and floors

**Splurged:** Chose quartz (Ceasarstone's Concrete #2003) for the oversized island and perimeter counters.  
**Saved:** Extended quartz 6 inches up the walls to eliminate the need for a tile backsplash and used resinous concrete overlay on floors instead of hardwood or tile.

## Get the look

Splurge or save on the designer finds that give this kitchen its sleek style.



**Sharp knives**  
6-Piece Knife Block Set, \$569, Global, [bedbathandbeyond.com](http://bedbathandbeyond.com)

**Great range**  
KitchenAid KDRS407VSS, \$4,199, Best Buy, [bestbuy.com](http://bestbuy.com)



**Curvy figure**  
Series 7™ chair in natural veneer, \$591, Design Within Reach, [dwr.com](http://dwr.com)



**Fab faucet**  
Ladylux3, Main Sink Dual Spray Pull-down 32 298, \$549 to \$719, Grohe, [grohecatalog.com](http://grohecatalog.com)

**Nicely priced lights**  
Firefly pendant lamp, \$199, cb2, [cb2.com](http://cb2.com)



