

LINDA WHITE

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It's often been said that hindsight is 20/20 but when you're predicting kitchen trends for the year 2020, you hardly have that luxury.

Fortunately, good designers have their fingers on the pulse of what's hot and what's not and have rounded up the trends that will transform the heart of your home.

One of the biggest trends is the return of colour. "In a sea of white kitchens over the last few years, there will be more colour returning to kitchen cabinetry, whether painted or stained," says Rick Inacio, vice president of sales with Lifestyles by Barrons, a full design-build company based in Georgetown.

"There are many kitchen sinks and faucets that can provide the right 'pop' in the kitchen, as these now come in a wide range of colours instead of the once basic stainless steel and chrome," he says. "Overall, the trend will be to use warmer tones throughout."

Sandra Mendes, a senior designer at AyA Kitchens, a Mississauga-based kitchen cabinet manufacturer, is also embracing coloured doors and finishes. "Cool colours, such as blue and green, are popular right now," she says. "Midnight blue' is a rich vibrant hue, while soft 'blue mist' offers a less daring alternative. 'Wintergreen,' a deep dark green, is stunning when paired with walnut or dark grey."

**CABINETS:** Walnut and oak cabinetry are on trend and both add beautiful texture to a kitchen, Mendes reports. "Glass-fronted cabinets, especially with contrasting slim profile metal frames with either clear or smoked

# GOODBYE WHITE CABINETS HELLO COLOUR!

## Designers dish on kitchen trends for 2020



This minimalist kitchen features with 'midnight blue' cabinets paired with white walls and countertops. **NELSON COSTA, AYA KITCHENS**

glass, are especially popular right now and are an homage to the 70s."

She believes open shelving is still popular because it allows homeowners to display their dishes or designer cookware while also providing easy access but Inacio isn't so sure. "Open shelving is less practical, since all dishes are exposed and tend to collect dust and therefore require

more maintenance, whereas cabinets with glass doors allow you to view the dishes without the extra hassle of constant washing before usage," he says. "Open shelving will be more utilized to display special items."

**GREEN DESIGN:** This is "increasingly important" to homeowners, Mendes says. "It's great to know your cabinets come from a renewable

and sustainable resources, as well as a supplier that uses environmentally-responsible manufacturing practices that minimize waste, recycle materials and have low VOC finishes like AyA Kitchens."

**HARDWARE, APPLIANCES:** Matte black hardware is on trend and goes perfectly with the popular matte black faucets and black graphite sinks, says Mendes.

In modern kitchens, fully-integrated appliances are a must for a clean, minimal look. Completely hidden exhaust fans are especially popular, she advises. For transitional and traditional kitchens, decorative hood fans in contrasting finishes such as black or natural rustic wood are popular.

**COUNTERTOPS, TILES:** Natural stone countertops are

marking a comeback, especially slabs with heavily marbled patterns. When it comes to tiles, two extremes are trending. "Moroccan influences are trendy, but they are not for everyone as they can be quite dramatic," says Mendes. "The alternative is white three-dimensional geometric patterned tiles, which offer a more subtle choice."

**LIGHTING:** Go big or go home. "One of the biggest requests we get from our clients is to make the kitchen brighter," Inacio says. "There will be more usage of LED lighting in kitchen designs in order to maximize functionality of the space, including upper lighting, in-cabinet lighting, task lighting, ceiling pots and pendants. These will be combined with natural lighting to enhance the kitchen space."

Interior cabinet lighting adds a touch of luxury. LED strips are also increasingly popular while retro-style pendants over islands and peninsulas are trending right now, reports Mendes.

**PANTRIES, SERVERIES:** Pantries can be built-in or a separate room that services the main kitchen. "These are functional spaces that house all the boxed and canned foods, small appliances and cleaning supplies, in turn freeing up a lot of cabinet space in the main kitchen," says Inacio.

"Serveries further optimize space for housing all of the fine dishes, glassware, coffee machines and so on. These spaces are fantastic when entertaining, as they can be used as the buffet areas, dessert areas or even the 'mess' areas. With a simple close of the door, the mess is hidden and the main kitchen remains spotless for entertaining."



Serveries can contain mess when entertaining. **LIFESTYLES BY BARRONS**



Colour is returning to kitchen cabinetry. **LIFESTYLES BY BARRONS**