

# Remodeling Guide

Experience. Integrity. Passion.

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In 2014, several of the largest and most important cabinet manufacturers returned to the Kitchen and Bath Industry Show (KBIS), after a few years' hiatus. There was considerable buzz as 31,000 attendees made their way through the kitchen and bath vignettes. Designers and remodelers alike found inspiration for their future projects in the stunning display of up-and-coming design trends.

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## ON A ROLL

## New Trends in this Age-Old Business



Remodeling has been occurring since early humans lived in simple dwellings. We picture a cavewoman sharing with a caveman that she needs a bigger fire pit or a caveman telling a cavewoman he needs a "man cave"!

Changing circumstances, lifestyle improvements and the need for comfort continue to compel homeowners to renovate. And although the motivations remain consistent, new ideas are always popping up in this age-old business.

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# ON A ROLL

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The beautiful kitchen vignette shown here was designed by KraftMaid for a hypothetical Boomer couple. Since so many people in this demographic are remaining in their homes well into their retirement years, flexibility and comfort were high on the list of requirements for this kitchen. One reason flexibility is so important is because today's Boomer household often needs space for an elderly parent or a returning adult child who arrives with grandchildren.

When kitchen space is needed for people of differing heights and physical abilities, one of the usual solutions is to include a multiple-height countertop. This kitchen offers something quite unusual with its rotating lower countertop. The low counter swivels out to provide a convenient place for the homeowners to sit down while chopping veggies or looking up a recipe on the iPad. The counter is also wheelchair accessible. When grandchildren are present for family dinners, the low counter can be used as a kid's table and the bar top for the teens. Once everyone is finished, the lower counter tucks back under the taller one, keeping the floor space open and free of obstacles. The taller counter is ideal for entertaining, since guests are in close proximity to the cook, but not in the primary workspace.

This kitchen also displays current design trends. Using a wide variety of texture—specifically contrasting texture—while keeping the lines clean is a big trend today. Oak is making a comeback, but not the bland "builder's oak" of the past. Creative, artisan finishes are making the grain and texture the star, and the Distressed Ginger finish on these kitchen cabinets is a perfect example. However, too much oak grain can overwhelm a room, and so in this kitchen the addition of cabinets with a sleek glossy finish provides a place for the eye to rest. Either the smooth texture of a painted slab door or a high-gloss thermofoil would accomplish this same objective. Combinations like this are popping up everywhere.



Photo: Courtesy of KraftMaid (www.kraftmaid.com)

*The wastebasket cabinet opens automatically when the cabinet door is nudged gently.*

Calm, neutral spaces with a splash of color is also an important trend. This kitchen features subway tile that is almost a solid color, but its irregular surface adds interest without being too distracting. Homeowners who are hesitant about color feel more comfortable adding it via paint, tile or decor. This method is less expensive than purchasing colorful cabinetry or appliances, and it will be easier to change in the future. ■

*Many homeowners are giving up their formal dining rooms for bigger kitchens, but still have dishes/collections they want to display. A simple hutch in the kitchen gives them the storage and the sparkle!*



Photo: Courtesy of KraftMaid (www.kraftmaid.com)



Photo: Courtesy of KraftMaid (www.kraftmaid.com)

# Panel Discussion

## New Product Introductions



*Broken Lines*

Vahallan Papers was established after Dan Nelson, one of the co-owners, struggled unsuccessfully to repair a damaged section of wallpaper in his own home. This experience inspired him to create an innovative decorative wall covering that is applied to the wall in smaller, more reparable panels.

The panels are artistically hand-painted with beautiful, contemporary patterns that display rich color combinations, metallics and textures. They may be installed in a variety of application styles to create the desired look. Vahallan Papers will also design customized patterns to coordinate specifically with a client's decor. ■



*Sanddollar*

## Slab Happy

Granite and quartz are currently running neck-and-neck in the race for most popular kitchen countertop material, with no other rival even coming close. But now there is a new contender on the field—porcelain slabs—displaying a lot of promise. It remains to be seen whether porcelain slabs will stay in the shadows, or provide a real challenge to granite and quartz. Homeowners are definitely ready for something new to capture their imagination.

Porcelain slabs offer many of the same qualities as the top-runners, but also provide additional features that homeowners and remodelers alike find very attractive. The slabs are food-grade, plus heat- and scratch-resistant like granite, and non-porous like quartz. Porcelain slabs have the same versatility, durability and low maintenance as porcelain tile and, like the tile, are rated for exterior use. They withstand the passing of time due to their resistance to ultra-violet rays, frost and ice. Using porcelain in its various formats, it is now possible to create a smooth, continuous flow from the kitchen floor to the walls, and from indoors through to the outdoor living space.

Another benefit of the large-format porcelain is its size.

Porcelain slabs are slimmer than granite and quartz, ranging between 3/16" - 1/3" thick, which makes them easy to cut and install. Slabs as large as 5' x 10' are now available, making it possible to create a substantial island without seams and relatively lightweight.

One of the most appealing characteristics of porcelain slabs is their versatility. They are manufactured with a variety of textures, from smooth to bush-hammered. New glaze and

inkjet technologies have created astounding looks for the oversized slabs, such polished semi-precious stone and marble. Porcelain slab fabricators can also create integral porcelain sinks, matched to the color and pattern of the slabs.

Porcelain slabs are manufactured primarily in Spain and Italy and are relatively new to the scene here in the US. As homeowners learn about this exciting product, however, the tide may soon turn. Porcelain slabs may eventually leave granite and quartz flailing down the back stretch. ■

Photo: Courtesy of Inalco ([www.inalco.es/en](http://www.inalco.es/en))



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# New Trends in this Age-Old Business

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Here are three new trends homeowners are implementing:

**Opening Up Rooms** Open floor plans are becoming popular and help families be more flexible with the square footage they already have. Also, removing interior walls and opening up spaces can really modernize older homes.

**Creating Relaxation Space** With home values still falling (or at least staying flat), homeowners are finding ways to create comfortable spaces in their current houses. So, it's no surprise when they renovate, tranquility comes to mind. One way to cultivate serene moods is by building "zen-like" bathrooms, where spaces don't have to be big, but they do have to be relaxing and soothing.

**Getting Decked Out** People want to enjoy the outdoors again, so for additional relaxation areas, clients are creating outside (and inside) "rooms," including decks, patios and sunrooms. Homeowners are also installing pools and other water features to enhance their outdoor havens.

Ready to open up a room, create a relaxing space (inside or out) or build that "man cave"? Give **Glaze Design/Build** a call today!



after



before

