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Two-Tone Kitchens

The kitchen has always been considered the heart of the home; it's where we spend most of our time, gather as a family, and it serves as the central meeting place where party guests always tend to flock towards, regardless of which room in the house has been designated as the space for entertaining.

And because of the amount of use that kitchens get from their owners, and the nature of that use, combined with the fact that the components of kitchen design are not as easily replaceable as furniture (replacing cabinetry could literally require a building permit and a full construction team), the kitchen is usually the first room in the home that needs a remodel, along with the bathrooms.

As a result, kitchen design is typically moves a bit faster than design trends for other rooms in the home. Unfortunately, that's also why the kitchen is usually the first place in a home to start to look dated, even when the entire house was renovated and redesigned at the same time.

One trend that's on the radar of many interior designers and architects is the two-tone kitchen. "Two-tone kitchens have become very popular in more recent years, but they have always been executed in design solutions," local interior designer Roxane Mosleh tells us. "The trend for two-tone kitchens is on an uprise as it allows the kitchen to show itself as furniture rather than plain

cabinetry in a utilitarian space. It features the cabinetry within open floor plans where the kitchens are now the focal point."

Kitchen design right now is leaning towards open floor plans, and this style is a perfect option for that kind of layout. These days, open floor plans are one of the most desirable features that people want in their homes: It makes the space look bigger, allows parents to keep an eye on their kids, offers great space for entertaining, and it simply makes the family home feel completely connected. "The largest change we see right now is how the kitchen has become entirely part of our living space with open floor plans and common areas integrated into the kitchen space," Mosleh says.

Two-tone kitchens create an interesting contrast in the space they occupy. While the totally clean-looking, bright white kitchen is a popular contemporary design choice, it's not for everyone. Monochrome spaces don't have the same dimension that's created in a space where there is a stark contrast that's created by having two dominant colors executed in the design.

That contrast doesn't have to just be created with paint choice, though. "Steel and wood cabinetry can also be used to create a two-tone style," Mosleh suggests. Utilizing one's hardware and the natural finishes in their kitchen can create the modern look without it

feeling forced. "Two-tone kitchens give you a feeling of dimension, and you can manipulate the look of the space with the change in materials."

However, if someone does want to achieve the modern look of a two-tone kitchen without completely replacing their cabinetry and center island -- which could be an expensive and lengthy process -- the two-tone kitchen can easily be done on a budget. It can also be done without the added expense of hiring an interior designer, although interior designers will naturally be able to see your space through the lens of a professional, and will be able to advise what will look best for the space, the home as a whole, and your family's lifestyle.

For those that are looking to DIY the anticipated updates to their kitchen, Mosleh suggests looking towards kitchen brands as the place to start. "All kitchen brands offer multiple cabinet styles, color, and finish options in their collections," she says. "From Ikea to Arclinea, you can select door finish options from lacquer, to wood or steel, allowing you to design a kitchen at any price point with a stylish two-tone, up-to-date look."

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