

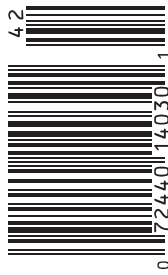
# Beautiful KITCHENS & BATHS

## 20 Trends That Are Here To Stay



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How to Choose  
And Use Marble p.116

**Fearless Color:**  
Go Bold Without Regrets p.9



A Lacanche range, the origin of the creamy hue in the color scheme, looks like a piece of furniture on the back wall. A breakfast nook in an adjacent window bay includes a sofa-style banquette for a living-room feel.



# *Kitchen* Confidential

Uncluttered and understated, this room functions like a hardworking kitchen while looking like an inviting living space.

WRITER AND FIELD EDITOR SUSAN STILES DOWELL | PHOTOS BRIE WILLIAMS | STYLIST SANDRA L. MOHLMANN





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Before architect Ruard Veltman's clients knew his studio was near the house they had just bought, they were blown away by one of his kitchen designs they saw in a magazine: a clutter-free space with no upper cabinets—more of a room than a kitchen. The style they saw on the page was exactly what they wanted for the kitchen and adjoining family room of the 1950s-era home they were remodeling in Charlotte. Then they looked up the architect and found that he was just 5 miles away. Another perfect fit that felt meant to be.

Their first meeting produced a plan for a streamlined central work space with a pair of adjacent alcoves that could store the paraphernalia and small appliances usually relegated to perimeter cabinets. "The kitchen had to feel like an extension of the family room, not just thrown into the family room," Veltman says. "Today's kitchen is vital to living and even entertaining. It can be glamorous if pared back and freed from heavy functionality."

Right away, he situated the refrigerator a step away from the central work area in an area not visible from the family room. A Lacanche range the wife chose looks like a piece of furniture set

into cabinetry along the back wall. Its cream hue against ebony-stained oak floors determined the room's color scheme. The choice of range hood was a much-deliberated decision: As the focal point of a rigorously symmetrical space, its design was key to the room's mood. Building it in plaster and then extending the plaster to the back wall was a romantic enhancement that only got better with a diamond pattern scored in the wall surface.

Veltman dropped the kitchen ceiling with a dramatic treatment of coffered beams painted light gray because, he says, "The compression creates a cozy cooking zone." He also dropped the floor level of the adjoining family room so that the kitchen became something of an overlook or stage.

Veltman also engineered two islands for the kitchen. One, opposite the range, looks like a farm

**Above:** Two islands with hidden storage capacity eliminate the need for upper cabinets in the central work area. Alcoves hold a pantry, small appliances, and most of the kitchen paraphernalia. **Opposite:** Architect Ruard Veltman designed the range hood in plaster to be a sculptural focal point. The plaster backsplash is scored to look as if it has tiny grout lines.





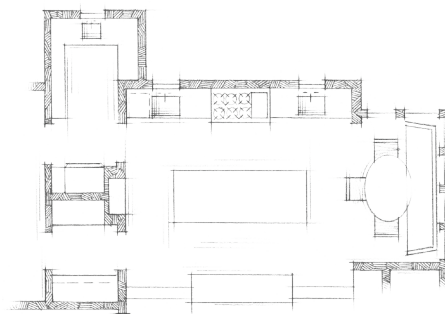




table but covers storage cabinets, ingeniously obscured from family-room view, to handle cooking needs. The second island, parallel to the first, sits near the descent to the family room and, appropriately, functions as a server. Careful adjustment of its height in the hierarchy of surfaces enabled Veltman to perch a serving platform above it. “The console divides the rooms, but it’s also sculptural and glamorous,” he says.

Tucked in a window bay is a breakfast nook with a banquette designed like a sofa. Designer Laura Archibald upholstered the banquette in spillproof vinyl color-matched to the ceiling gray. She upholstered the backs of the chairs with panels of cut velvet. “Their turquoise and coral originate in the family room,” she says. It’s the final layer that completes a vision for a kitchen that hardly looks like a kitchen at all.

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**Above left:** The refrigerator occupies a passage to the pantry alcove, out of sight from the family room. **Top:** Recessed shelving in the central work area mimics the look of a bookcase. **Above:** A slab of Calacatta Gold marble on wrought-iron pins looks sculptural and functions for serving. The console below has warming drawers and a decorative fluted top that discourages clutter. **Opposite:** Chairbacks treated to cut-velvet panels introduce pops of color. Window shades used for privacy at night retract under the cornices during the day.





## DESIGNER INSIGHTS

### Living Room Looks

Designing a kitchen that looks more like a living space without sacrificing functionality is a tricky proposition. Follow architect Ruard Veltman's lead to achieve this look.

- **Conceal hardworking elements.** Side alcoves hold a pantry, fridge, microwave, coffeemaker, and everyday kitchen necessities usually stored in the perimeter cabinets of conventional kitchens.

- **Add an eating area.** A nailhead-trimmed banquette looks like a sofa and minimizes the number of needed chairs, furthering the kitchen's streamlined look.

- **Look up.** A network of deeply coffered beams lowers the ceiling height to make the kitchen's work area look dramatic and feel cozy.

- **Use calming colors.** Creamy neutrals accented by cheerful pops of color create an inviting vibe.

### Dine in Style

Put a personal touch on your dining experience with these ideas for everything from banquettes to dining rooms. [BHG.com/BanquetteIdeas](http://BHG.com/BanquetteIdeas)