

Innovative Integration

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Appliances today are more advanced in form and function overall. From designing your space to the buttons you push, appliances compound purpose and look. As a result of innovative ideas, we face a magnitude of choices when selecting appliances—including custom cabinet overlays, technologically advanced functions, and of course, a plethora of sizes, shapes, and colors.

Many new homes and remodels are integrating appliances into different rooms of the home and hiding the functional equipment with design elements, such as custom panel overlays. Some common room trends are a coffee system in the master bedroom, two drawers of refrigeration disguised in a bookcase in the family room to hold convenient refreshments, or a warming drawer in the bathroom to warm up bath towels. The drawers can accommodate wood panels to create a seamless look with the cabinetry selected for any room.

Now available are the nifty “smart” appliances, which can cook a deliciously appetizing whole chicken in about 29 minutes, and not even require pre-heating time. One intelligent oven today will hold food cold like a fridge, then cook it, keep it warm, and if you don’t get home on time, it goes back to fridge mode so dinner does not spoil. This is such a blessing for those of us caught in today’s busy life style. Some appliances even answer the call of America’s melting pot by offering multiple languages in the instruction panel for the convenience of the homeowner or his foreign guest. The oven actually leads you through a process so any novice cook will perform like a seasoned chef. Another exciting innovation, is the remote control hood or sensor. No longer do you need to touch the hot vent; you can use a remote or simply wave your hand in front of the function you’d like employed.

Stainless, although still a popular finish, isn’t your only choice when selecting your appliances. Some new, durable and easy to clean options are available. A unique color, Iridium, has a blue tint with brushed stainless steel texture; sure to please the indiscriminating tastes of many designers and their clients. Meteorite is another new finish with a distinctive look, that also resists fingerprints. Two other new materials called Platinum and Carbon Steel were recently introduced as well. All of these new finishes allow you to create a unique and individually catered look in the kitchen. So, next time someone tells you that stainless is the only game in town, consider your options.

Appliance manufacturers are answering the demands of consumers with custom options, intelligent electronics, and spatial consideration. As technology progresses and lifestyles change, so will the appliances we’ve come to rely on. ■



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