

## HOME INTERIORS & EXTERIORS:

# KITCHENS

*redesigned*

In our recent Northside Gourmet survey, we asked readers what, if anything, you would change if you were to redesign your kitchens.

Following are a few of your greatest kitchen concerns, along with advice from local experts on how to address them.

*“I need more countertop space.”*

“There are a few things you can do without tearing out your entire kitchen and completely redesigning the space,” said Josh Katterheinrich, president of Granite Transformations Atlanta. “You can cut down your breakfast bar and add corbels to the cabinets which can extend your countertops another 18 inches. You can extend the countertops 2 to 3 feet on an island or peninsula by adding table legs. This can add up to 9 square feet of countertop space. You can add another cabinet or an island.”

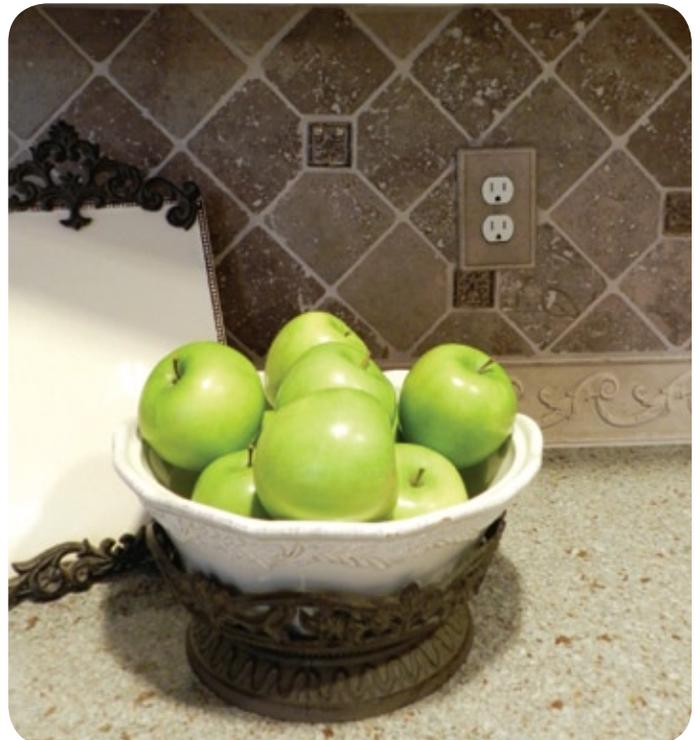


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*“I need to update my countertops.”*

“Start by picking the type of countertop. Is the look the most important thing or function? Do you want a low maintenance surface because you do a lot of cooking?” Katterheinrich asked. “Marble and granite are beautiful and very popular because of their look, but they have issues with staining and cracking. Plus you must maintain them with specialty cleaners and sealers. Engineered stone countertops are better for function and high-use kitchens ... They are made from natural stone so they still have a great look but you don’t have to worry about the maintenance.”

“Next, pick your color,” Katterheinrich continued. “Do not pick your color based on the paint that is already there unless you absolutely love the paint ... it is easier to find a paint that matches your countertops than a countertop that matches your paint. [And] make sure to see the countertop samples in your home — not a showroom. Your lighting will be different and affect how the color shows.”

“I am a fan of quartz for countertops!” Allison Havill Todd of Allison Havill Todd Interiors in Cumming exclaimed. “It is a natural stone surface that is elegant and practical. It is maintenance free and requires no sealing, polishing or reconditioning.”

Azita Nekooi of Luxor Tile & Stone in Roswell recommends using environmentally friendly materials like natural stone and ceramic tile. “Ceramic tile and natural stone [such as] granite have high thermal storage capacity, meaning they retain heat and emit it slower, and there are new products in the market using nanotechnology, creating tile with a warm and comfortable surface to touch with even temperature, therefore reducing demand for heat and a/c,” she said. “The benefits of using these materials are classic beauty, durability, easy maintenance, superior quality, affordability and an increase in your home value.”



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“*I need more storage space for cookware and utensils.*”

“Consider incorporating an island in your kitchen or adding cabinet doors, drawers or shelves to an existing one for better use of space,” Todd suggested. “If you are planning to upgrade your cabinetry, work with an experienced kitchen designer to make use of every inch of space.”

“Consider a hanging pot rack — they add character and look great over an island,” said Kelly Kole of Atlanta-based Kandrac & Kole Interior Designs, Inc. “Consider two-tier cutlery drawers that take advantage of a deep space by stacking a sliding compartment on top of another. Check out IKEA for a range of interior organizer options.”

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*“My appliances need to be upgraded.”*



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“Stainless steel is still king when it comes to kitchen appliances and there is no sign of this trend changing anytime in the near future,” Todd said. “More and more we are seeing appliances with cabinet door panels which makes them part of the overall cabinetry for the kitchen. If you are upgrading cabinets you may want to consider this feature to incorporate existing appliances in a timeless manner,” she added.

“Think outside the box,” Kole suggested. “We recently selected a stainless steel dishwasher, microwave and refrigerator for a client but mixed it with a retro stove in red from Big Chill. Talk about making a statement!”

“Part of the confusion in selecting appliances is that they look relatively the same from the outside but have major differences inside,” Kole added. “Motors, compressors, insulation and electronic sensors are the ‘guts’ of any appliance, so it is important to understand those features.”



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“I need a larger pantry.”

“Large pantries have a high return on investment and are very attractive to potential home buyers, so creating this space in your kitchen might be worth your while,” Kole said. “Many kitchens in Atlanta have a small desk area in the kitchen that simply serves as a junk collector. We recently had a contractor turn the desk area into a walk-in pantry for a client. It was a simple project that made a huge difference!”

“Consider this weekend project: Take out all of the wire shelving and replace with a solid surface like MDF [medium density fibre-board],” Kole suggested. “Bring your measurements (length and depth — leave room to shut the door if you plan on putting a rack on the door) to Home Depot and they will cut all the shelves for you. There’s a good chance you can make the shelves a little bit deeper than what you’ve got.” **PN**

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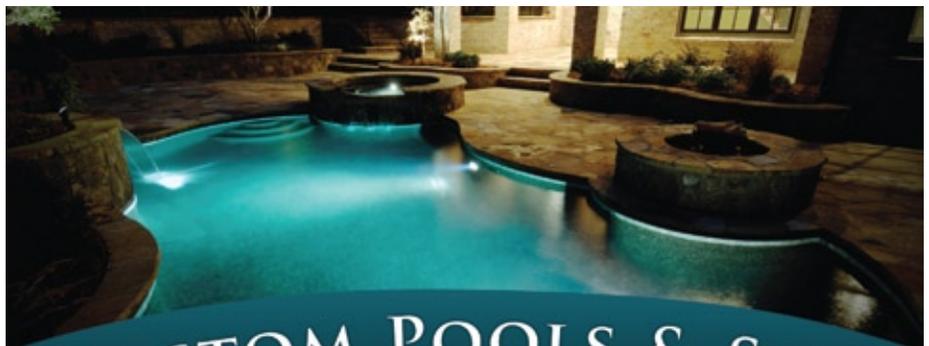
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