

Getting creative in kitchen design



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THE DESIGN FEED

are in good condition, consider having them refinished instead of replaced (I went to ProGlo Paints). This is especially easy in a mod-

With spring finally arriving, I bet you're craving a taste of something new in your interior decor — so let's start with the kitchen!

I thought the best way to open this new column would be with a very personal project: my own kitchen redesign for my downtown Toronto home. Whether you're starting a full renovation or just want a quick bite of fresh decor, here's my top five takeaway tips for making your kitchen feel like a spring chicken.

1. Get Colourful

For years the go-to cabinetry looks have been warm, rich woods tones, or clean fresh white, but for 2015 consider a rich navy shade: it strikes a perfect balance between timeless neutral and colourful energy, bringing life to your kitchen without overwhelming you. I sprang for Benjamin Moore's Gentleman's Grey — a hue sure to outlast trends.

Tip: If your cabinet doors

ern cabinet setup with little to no fixed trim to colour match — just send away for spraying and enjoy a whole new custom look.

2. Get Brassy

My newly blue doors demanded a little warmth, so I went with brass hardware: both sleek cabinet pulls and a golden-hued faucet. While warm-metal fixtures may be harder to find (I had my Aquabrace "Quinoa" faucet custom plated), a new brassy cabinet handle is a low commitment update that can coordinate beautifully with your existing stainless steel for an easy update.

Tip: I contrasted my metallic lower handles with a cut crystal knob on the uppers to spice things up. You can match the look with the cut crystal knob from my Yanic Simard Selected accessories collection (visit YSSelected.com).

3. Get Chunky

A huge trend for current renovations is the solid slab backsplash, especially when



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Spice your look up with these matching crystal knobs.

matched to the counter material for a singular statement. In this case I used a continuous sheet of marble from Marble Trend cut to cover both surfaces, so even though there isn't much area to cover the look feels large and ultra-luxe.

Tip: A deep square sink is one of my design go-tos, and a perfect minimalist counterpoint to a rich stone counter. Grab one with a matching sink grate for the ultimate in functionality.

4. Get Reflective

Mirrors are always an effective way to make a space feel larger, and those in smokey gray glass are especially powerful for expanding a space while also lending it a moody, sophisticated elegance. Here I had the appliances (refrigerator and range) backed with mirror by Mirror Interiors to perfectly cap off these often under-attended niches with a designer touch.

Tip: For a similar eyeline-opening look, try a high-gloss subway tile backsplash in a deep gray or black tone for a subtly reflective effect.

5. Get Modern

A marble top Saarinen-style table is a mid century modern classic that can update any style of eat-in kitchen, adding an infusion of marble even if you aren't planning on replacing your finishes any time soon. Try a slim 24-32" round table for casual dining in even a compact kitchen.

Tip: Transitional design, a popular style especially for kitchens, is essentially a blend of traditional details and modern lines for a balance between the two. To achieve this coveted look, try blending a modernist table with traditionally elegant



A golden-hued faucet adds warmth.

chairs and enjoy the best of both worlds!

Find more design inspiration at tidg.ca/interiors, and tweet me your kitchen update ideas @yanicsimard!

— Yanic Simard is principal

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A rich navy shade brings life to this kitchen.

Quick Bites

1. Navy blue is your new best bet for updated cabinets. (Benjamin Moore #2062-20)

2. Brass accents are a must have; swap out your hardware for an instant update.

3. Solid backsplashes make a big statement, especially in elegantly veined marble.

4. Use smokey gray mirror to back your appliances and expand the space.

5. A marble top table adds instant style, no construction required!



Adding an infusion of marble can update any style of eat-in kitchen.