

Beyond the Triangle

Appliances make a statement with visual impact, creative placement and personalized features designed to allow consumers flexibility when cooking and entertaining.

BY ELIZABETH RICHARDS

The way a kitchen functions depends a great deal on the appliances selected for the space. But functional needs are not the only factor to consider when selecting this essential equipment. Appliances also play a large role in the overall statement a kitchen makes, and designers carefully consider the choices and personal style of the homeowner when putting it all together.

“Cooking appliances make a statement about who you are, how you cook and how you entertain,” says Melissa Haber, director of sales & marketing for EuroChef USA in Edgewood, NY.

Over time, the layout of kitchens has changed a great deal and the traditional kitchen triangle is no longer dictating the placement of appliances as it once did. Instead, designers are creating work zones in the kitchen – and beyond. “Getting out of that kitchen triangle mentality has been so important for designers,” says Andrew Shead, marketing specialist for True Manufacturing in O’Fallon, MO. “It was really developed in the ’50s with a different set of technology, and a different set of needs and a different lifestyle than we have now.” Creating functional zones where people can work together in the kitchen is more important in today’s designs, he adds.

With the range of appliance choices available, trends sometimes hit opposite ends of a continuum. For instance, some manufacturers see a demand for appliances made to stand out while others see more call for



This refrigerator, part of the LG Studio line from **LG Electronics**, has Door-in-Door technology, offering access without opening the entire refrigerator door. InstaView Door-in-Door refrigerators have a glass panel that shows inside the easy access door. The unit is also available in black stainless steel finish. Circle No. 155 on Product Card



Vinotemp blue LED interior lighting is now offered on **Vinotemp’s** Designer Series wine coolers. The light can reduce the growth of bacteria and inhibit the spread of mold, notes the firm. The series includes the 24 Bottle Seamless Wall-Mounted Wine Cooler and the 149 Bottle Dual-Zone Wine Cooler. Circle No. 156 on Product Card



The indoor range from **DCS** features dual-fuel capabilities, with a gas cooktop and self-cleaning electric oven with true convection. DCS cooktops have unique, patented Dual Flow Burners that provide quick, intense heat, and quickly lower to a full-surface simmer. Circle No. 157 on Product Card



Samsung Electronics’ Family Hub Refrigerator includes a 21.5" LCD touch screen that serves as the digital command center and connects to a smartphone. Three interior cameras also capture images each time the doors close, and those images can be accessed via a smartphone. Circle No. 158 on Product Card

appliances that blend into their surroundings behind custom overlays. Compact appliances are trending, but so, too, are larger appliances that offer a variety of cooking options within a single unit. Personalization and flexibility are key drivers for this range of trends.

Other trends include the inclusion of multiple appliances dispersed throughout a household, features that add convenience and value, and a rise in connected appliances in some categories. So say manufacturers recently surveyed by *Kitchen & Bath Design News*.

EXPANDED OPTIONS

No longer are consumers limited to a single refrigeration unit or cooking appliance – and the kitchen isn’t the only place appliances are showing up in the home. Appliances have been gravitating out of the kitchen for a few years, and are popping up in more places than ever, manufacturers say.

Stephanie Muraro Gust, product marketing manager for Milwaukee, WI-based Perlick Residential Products says that, while trends in the actual appliances haven’t changed much, the way people are using them has as the trend toward customization becomes more pronounced. “With the booming popularity of fresh organic products, we are seeing designers spec our products in every single room of the home. It’s all about creating customized solutions for each particular home, especially with refrigeration,” she states.



Part of **Bosch's** 800 Series, the 36" counter-depth French Door refrigerator features Dual AirCool system, providing even temperatures and minimizing odor transfer between the refrigerator and freezer. It has two humidity-controlled CrisperDrawers, and a Chiller Drawer with an adjustable divider. Circle No. 159 on Product Card



Dacor's new Distinctive 36" Counter-Depth Refrigerator was strategically designed with features specific to the needs of the homeowner who enjoys hosting guests. This Energy Star-certified refrigerator expands Dacor's home entertaining offerings with the capability to produce 11 pounds of ice per day. Circle No. 160 on Product Card



BlueStar's 36" built-in refrigerator features stainless steel on the interior as well as stainless steel and glass shelves and drawers. An articulating hinge enables built-in or flush mounting. Its dual compressor system means that the moist air stays in the refrigerator and doesn't mix with the drier freezer air. Circle No. 161 on Product Card



Bertazzoni's 36" Freestanding French Door Refrigerator features a dual air-cooling system for refrigerator and freezer compartments, and a temperature-controlled crisper. Two freezer drawers also feature digital temperature control. Circle No. 162 on Product Card



The **Vent-A-Hood** Designer Series, which includes this JDHC2 model, offers a variety of canopies in wall mount and island options. Each product features the quiet patented Magic Lung blower system and individually engineered for performance in addition to style, notes the firm. Circle No. 163 on Product Card



Big Chill's Classic 1900 Series 30" range and coordinating ventilation blends an industrial look with American style. The collection is available in six colors and four metal trim options. Features are: up to 18,000 BTU burners, cast iron grates, oversized oven, infrared broiler and convection fan. Circle No. 164 on Product Card



Over 25 new dishwashers have been added to **Miele's** Generation 6000 Futura Dishwasher Series. The G6000 line-up includes Knock2open handleless dishwasher models. The spray arm alternates water to the middle or the top and bottom spray arms using varying pressure levels. Circle No. 165 on Product Card



The Cattura downdraft vent system from **BEST** is a retractable unit featuring Vertex Complete Capture Design, allowing it to capture emissions with up to 100% capture. Dual inlet ports on the face and top of the downdraft take in emissions. Fully raised, the unit reaches 18". Circle No. 166 on Product Card

Shead agrees. He sees multiple refrigeration units being used to keep up with the abundance of fresh food homeowners are consuming. "Allowing people to personalize the way they use their kitchen to really fit the types of foods they're passionate about, the types of food they're buying, has been important to us," he says. Another big trend is setting up an area to create cocktails at home, he adds. Consumers are creating a bar suite out of multiple undercounter units that might include a Clear Ice machine, dual-zone wine cabinet and undercounter refrigerator.

"In the last year, there has been continued interest in bringing appliances out of the kitchen and placing them throughout the home to provide a seamless entertaining experience, as well as a more luxurious experience for every day enjoyment of the culinary enthusiast," says Beatriz Sandoval, director of brand marketing for Thermador at BSH Appliances in Irvine, CA. This could mean a spa-like atmosphere in a master suite that includes an undercounter refrigerator, built-in coffee machine and towel warming drawer, or a beverage center in a media room, she states. "This is a continuation of the paradigm shift toward complete home personalization that has been happening over the last few years."

The need for appliances even extends beyond the walls of the home with the increasing popularity of outdoor kitchens. "A noticeable trend is that more and more built-in appliances are being selected to complete the spaces," says Brian Jones, director of marketing for Sub-Zero

and Wolf in Madison, WI. "Built-in units help to recreate the indoor kitchen outdoors. It's evident that expanding usable cooking, dining and entertaining space to the outdoors is an opportunity of which many are taking advantage."

SIZE EXTREMES

Appliance size spans a wide range, depending on the space available and consumer lifestyles. Trends are moving toward either the very small or large and loaded with features.

"Flexibility seems to be the buzz at EuroChef as we continue to innovate with compact options, all electric ranges and 110-volt appliances," says Haber. "These niche products may never be mainstream trends, but consumers and designers are excited to finally have options to overcome their design challenges. As homeowners return to city life and sometimes older buildings, they now have no barrier to designing with top performing cooking appliances that save space and can use alternate forms of power to deliver results."

Jones says that, at Sub-Zero and Wolf, they have also seen a need for appliances that will outfit smaller, compact kitchens. The firm just announced a product suite in widths of 24" or less, giving people with smaller kitchen footprints the option to incorporate their cooking and refrigeration appliances that are typically associated with larger, pro-style kitchens, he adds.