

INSPIRATION FOR PROFESSIONAL KITCHEN AND BATH DESIGN

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# DESIGNER

## MODERN WORLD

Will this be the shape  
of kitchens to come?

## A PASSION FOR GLASS

Artist Erin Adams'  
color-filled tile tales

## DINNER THEATER

Manhattan mansion kitchen designed  
for ultimate entertaining

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showtime



## ITALIAN CHIC

Glass, mixed materials and color are all part of new kitchen trends unveiled at Eurocucina in Milan

Though the saying goes, "All roads lead to Rome," when it comes to what's new in kitchen design, all eyes are on Milan, where the Eurocucina show is held every other Spring, showcasing new ideas from the finest kitchen system companies in Europe. Trends unveiled this year included kitchens with splashes of color, the use of woods like walnut and teak that aren't commonplace, minimal islands that are more like tables with built-in cooktops, features which seek to blend the kitchen in with the adjacent living area, intriguing uses of light, and incorporations of transparent and colored glass in countertops, cabinet fronts and eating bars.

Following are some specific examples of kitchens, some available in the US and some not, that reflect trends as well as individually

creative concepts. All are meant to offer you inspiration and ideas to incorporate into your own kitchen designs.

### CURVES & COLOR

The distinctive value of a well-designed object at the high end is increasingly related to its ability to convey emotions through attractive forms, which bring character and personality to a space, as well as the use of original materials and colors, and the ability to innovate and customize in the features offered.

According to Snaidero, the Venus kitchen—designed by Paolo Pininfarina, debuted at Eurocucina and available in the US—meets all those criteria:

\*A striking visual element is the mirror-like or

parallel trend of the curves in the countertops, cabinets and shelves. The gently contoured, symmetrical island work surfaces are ergonomic and functional, lifted up to offer a convenient work area.

\*The finish on the cabinetry is Microtouch—a leather-effect micro fiber applied to the aluminum honeycomb panel doors. The very fine micro fiber is treated with a tanning process in water, and is extremely scratch resistant and easy to clean.

\*After several years of minimal light greys, cool whites and Nordic woods predominating in many European kitchens, colors with bright, saturated tones are making a comeback. Venus is a vibrant coral/red.

\*Venus is customizable, with variable table/island/snack bar components that offer three



different heights. Backsplashes can be aluminum, silver grey or ice white laminate, stainless steel or solid surfacing. Countertops can be made with stainless steel, laminate, wood or solid surfacing.

\*The integration of an LED system into the range hood is innovative. The lighting solution, patented by Snaidero, consists of LED spotlights fitted close to each other in a streamlined aluminum shelf that yield the following benefits: even distribution and control, relatively low heat emission, 83 percent energy saving compared to halogen bulbs with ten times the lamp life.

### DIVERSITY IN UNITY

Creating diversity within a clean-lined framework is a common theme among kitchens introduced at Eurocucina. Poliform's Young system, designed by Carlo Colombo, is distinguished by smooth, even lines broken only by changes in color and material.

Young is shown here in two configurations that render completely different looks by combining different materials. One version has Bianco laminate doors and aluminum edges; a Grafite laminate top with an aluminum profile and a backsplash in Grafite painted etched glass. The second vignette is made with India laminate doors and aluminum edges. The peninsula and



backsplash are done in aluminum laminate.

### ARCHITECTURAL APPROACH

Modus from Binova, designed by Nava and Casiraghi, is a kitchen that opens up toward the living room. It changes "furnishings" into "architectural elements or components." The system is based on the transformation of space through the use of "curtains"—a new way to conceive of functional cabinetry. The curtain or

Opposite page: Venus countertops change levels seamlessly through the use of curved stainless steel. Countertops curves are mimicked in the vent hood ■ Top: Long-life LEDs are integrated into the vent hood ■ Above: Venus from Snaidero is all about curves and color—a bright coral red