

Alberto Snaidero brings kitchen design trends to life

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Courtesy of Snaidero

Home and Living is happy to say we have corralled one of the best arbiters on kitchen [design](#) to give our readers: ideas, photographs and commentary on the most exciting kitchen design trends for 2015.

Alberto Snaidero is the Operational Manager of Snaidero USA. We asked Alberto to tell us something about his family and their legacy:

Alberto: As a third generation kitchen cabinet manufacturer and Italian immigrant, I'm proud that my family's company continues to embrace our roots in Italian design so thoroughly.

Snaidero has been designing and innovating state-of-the-art [kitchens](#) for nearly 70 years, and

in that time, we've seen lots of trendy styles come and go (track lighting and flowered upholstery come to mind!). That said, good design stands the test of time.

European-style cabinets tend to have a very particular aesthetic that has worked for many years now: clean lines, unfussy details, seamless integration. However, those tried and true elements still allow for the occasional reinvention, a collection of which I am particularly excited for in the coming year.

Q.: What is an important element of this type of design?

Visual continuity between the kitchen and living room

Although open floor plans have been popular for several years now, this concept continues to be an in-demand feature for both new constructions and kitchen remodels. Different for this year though is that kitchens are beginning to look more like the furniture in other rooms of the home, creating an even more seamless integration between two rooms.

The classic idea of the “kitchen triangle” has expanded to more of a square, allowing a 4th point for the chef to interact with his or her guests as part of the experience. Living room adjacent bar seating help to create this look, while the kitchen itself becomes more modular and focused on embracing the space as a whole, instead of as a stand-alone element of the home.

“*...clean lines, unfussy details, seamless integration.*”

Q.: What about the furniture?

“Lighter” designs

Modern kitchens are increasingly more streamlined and “lighter in feel,” through neutral color palettes and an increased use of negative space, simple compositions, glass doors for upper cabinets, and open shelving.

Q.: And design, what can you say will last?

“Rich” and Simple

The lighter, more streamlined cabinet compositions also contribute to the trend of simpler

designs. However, “simplicity” doesn’t need to translate into an uninteresting minimalism.

New designs tend to include rich, interesting materials and beautiful details that enrich the kitchen but that are not always immediately recognized. One such example is Snaidero’s **ELLE by Monica Armani**, which has just been awarded the 2014 GOOD DESIGN® Award by The Chicago Athenaeum: Museum of Architecture and Design and The European Centre for Architecture Art Design and Urban Studies.

Q.: Is there an element for the family?

A Smart, Connected Home

The kitchen has long been considered “the heart of the home,” but it is increasingly essential for this heart to interact with the various, interconnected elements of the rest of the house. A truly smart home utilizes automation devices, sensors, smart outlets, and innovative remote control systems, all accessible through a central platform, to offer security, comfort, customization and energy savings.

New technologies help users program the kitchen to adapt according to the specifications of each household member. These user specifications could send notifications when stored food about to expire, alerting you about energy consumption levels or warn you about appliance malfunction and could contact manufacturers directly for repairs.

Q.: How is styling a factor for the new kitchen?

Mixing Styles

I’m expecting to see a lot more [interior design](#) environments that mix styles. Most often, this trend manifests itself in a combination of modern and traditional elements, infusing vintage touches into a contemporary design or modern, sleek accents pieces into an otherwise rustic space. This trend is a lesson in contrast, and it provides a playful mix-and match style for designers and consumers alike. It allows the kitchen space to have a little fun, and makes the whole design more interesting and unexpected.

Industrial Chic

Open floor plans are perfect for urban loft spaces that are becoming increasingly popular as people continue moving back to the cities from generations in the suburbs. Unsurprisingly, new kitchen design composition trends embrace these progressive spaces and set the tone for the rest of the home by including large islands with integrated seating/dining areas, as well as a mix of materials. These mixed materials often include reclaimed wood, steel, iron, glass and imitation cement laminate, often juxtaposed to walls with exposed bricks.

Alberto, thank you for giving us your educated perspective on what the most exciting kitchen design trends for 2015 and beyond are.

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