

### Too Many Cooks in the Kitchen?

*Not anymore. Today's kitchens are warm and inviting.*

Are you a gourmet chef, the consummate entertainer or a busy family on the go? Perhaps you're happily balancing all three. Regardless, the kitchen is bound to be where your mail is gathered, your children do their homework, your family shares meals and your guests convene during a party.

To effectively serve all of these purposes, designers and architects have found it necessary to rethink the features of today's kitchen. Everything from the cabinets and counters to the appliances and size have been reexamined and redefined.

The result is a trend toward a more livable kitchen with a fresh take on chic casualness and sophisticated comfort. The new kitchen incorporates the design strategies and philosophies previously reserved for the rest of the home. From eclectic material choices to specialty lighting and non-dining furniture, homeowners are creating kitchens that are inviting, practical and personal. BOWA Builders is seeing this design evolution in its share of the nearly \$15 billion kitchen addition and renovation market, as well as in their custom home projects.



*Complementing both traditional and contemporary styles, stainless has stood the test of time to become the new "classic."*

"Our clients are stylish and sophisticated," says Joe Burke, division manager and head of BOWA's new Middleburg office. "They are carrying the finely crafted finishes from the rest of the home into their new multi-purpose kitchens, creating spaces that reflect their personality and are comfortable for family and friends."

#### Size and Layout

In recent years, we have seen kitchens grow larger and more versatile and even expand into other portions of the



*Antiques, upholstered chairs and furniture details on the island and cabinetry create a warm, inviting space for family and friends.*

home. A 2006 American Institute of Architects (AIA) survey of residential architecture firms confirms these emerging trends.

With respect to the kitchens they are designing, 41% of survey respondents indicated the size of kitchens is on the rise. To serve the multiple demands on today's kitchens, designers are using furniture, fixtures and lighting to carve out specialty areas in the large, open spaces. These expanded kitchens may include areas suited to formal and casual dining, doing homework, high-



*Specialty lighting, mixed surfaces and varied counter heights help to create special-use areas in today's versatile kitchen.*

lighting art and, of course, displaying food and drink for guests.

Interestingly, 25% of respondents also reported that the number of kitchens is increasing when you consider separate facilities in guest suites, secondary food storage areas or even kitchens within kitchens. Many homeowners are opting for a small quick-prep area within their high-end showpiece kitchen. An adjacent butler's pantry may be just the solution. With the essential small sink, cutting board and microwave in close proximity, this area is ideal for day-to-day meals, while the larger space lends itself to entertaining and gourmet cooking.

#### Cabinetry and Furniture

Approaching the kitchen as a living area instead of a purely functional space, frees homeowners to incorporate design elements once reserved for other parts of the home. This trend is clearly seen in furniture and cabinetry choices.

"I frequently see clients mixing and matching colors and finishes and add-

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### Thank You for Your Kind Words

Commentary contributed by  
*JOSH BAKER, PRESIDENT*

At BOWA Builders, we have been very fortunate. Over the years we have developed a loyal group of clients and colleagues who are willing to share their BOWA experience with family and friends. Your kind words have consistently resulted in more than 90% of our business each year.

We fully appreciate the value of personal referrals and will do everything we can to ensure that you are comfortable putting your good name behind BOWA. You have my promise that your friends and family will receive a timely response and will be treated with the utmost respect and professionalism. Furthermore, throughout the entire process they will receive the same commitment to client satisfaction and quality craftsmanship you have come to expect from BOWA. Of

course, we will be in contact to let you know that we received the call and to assure you that your referral is in good hands.

As many of you have already experienced, for every two personal referrals you make who hire BOWA Builders for a large-scale renovation or custom home project, we will treat you to a luxurious, five-star getaway. You and a guest will receive two days and one night at the award-winning The Inn at Little Washington as our way of saying thank you.

We truly are grateful for your continued support of BOWA Builders. 



*Just one of the 15 luxurious guest rooms in which you can stay at the award-winning The Inn at Little Washington — our treat!*

### Today's kitchens *(continued from page 1)*

ing furniture details to their cabinetry," says Burke. "By incorporating complementary woods, turned legs and furniture base moldings, clients are able to create a space that truly expresses their unique sense of style."

Burke adds that many of his clients are retrofitting antiques to suit their storage needs and creating integrated nooks with upholstered furniture. With today's mixed finishes these pieces fit right in and add warmth and charm.

#### Counters

Counters have also proven to be an area for personalization and improved functionality. Many designers are creating specialty areas by blending counter heights and surfaces. Taller counter space, perhaps at an island, provides a handy place to pull up a barstool for a casual meal or doing homework or to display beverages and hors d'oeuvres while entertaining. On the other hand, an area outfitted with lower counters might be perfect for a baking center or encouraging smaller children to lend a hand.

Countertop materials have also evolved in recent years. Homeowners are more often opting for the aesthetic qualities and design flexibility of natural materials in a variety of finishes in lieu of the once popular solid-surface counters.




*Plumbed coffee makers, wine refrigerators, pizza ovens and flat-screen TVs add to the kitchen's functionality and personalization.*

Blending complementary stones or colors or including custom butcher block helps to create an interesting composition of varied textures.

#### Appliances and Electronics

Gourmet cooks and non-cooks alike continue to gravitate toward professional-grade appliances. Equally complementing traditional and contemporary styles stainless finishes have stood the test of time to become a new "classic," says Burke.

What is evolving with appliances is a trend toward versatility and functionality. Refrigeration is frequently decentralized mixing and matching taller units with under-counter drawers or smaller point-of-use units. Some even add wine refrigerators with cigar compartments that are hooked up to the home automation system to ensure proper, consistent chilling. Also adding a personal touch, are plumbed coffee makers, built-in steamers and pizza ovens. And, of course, what 21<sup>st</sup> century kitchen is complete without a flat-screen television and wireless computer?

More than ever, the kitchen is the hub of the home. The new approach to kitchen design embraces this trend to create spaces that are comfortable for family and friends alike. So, when everyone ends up in the kitchen at your next party, don't chase them out. Just relax and enjoy the company! 

## Time to Begin Thinking about Summer Again

With summer just around the corner, it's time to follow our seasonal maintenance checklist to help protect your home and family.

### Interior

- Check smoke detector batteries.
- Check security system batteries.
- Check carbon monoxide detector batteries.

### Exterior

- Clean debris from gutters and downspouts.
- Ensure positive drainage away from house.
- Caulk and re-touch exterior paint.
- Power wash outdoor deck or patio surface.

### HVAC

- Clean and/or replace filters.
- Turn humidifiers off (turn water off at valve and adjust humidistat to "off").
- Clean and check condensate pipes and/or pumps.
- Get a full system check by a specialist.
- Adjust dampers to correct position for cooling season.



## Awards & RECOGNITION

### WHOLE-HOUSE RENOVATION

*Bethesda, Maryland*

#### **Gold Winner**

*2006 Custom Builder Awards of Excellence  
Custom Whole House Renovation  
MNCBIA*



#### **Grand Award Winner**

*2006 Regional Contractor of the Year  
2005 Local Contractor of the Year  
Entire House Remodeling Over \$1,000,000  
NARI*



#### **Award of Merit Winner**

*2005 Monument Award  
Customized Residential Remodeling, Above \$750,000  
NVBIA/MNCBIA*



### LARGE-SCALE RENOVATION

*Washington, DC*

#### **Gold Winner**

*2006 Custom Builder Awards of Excellence  
New or Remodeled Kitchen  
MNCBIA*



#### **Grand Award Winner**

*2005 Monument Award  
Customized Residential Remodeling, \$600,001 - \$750,000  
NVBIA/MNCBIA*



#### **Award of Merit Winner**

*2005 Local Contractor of the Year  
Residential Addition, \$100,000 - \$250,000  
NARI*

### OTHER MEDIA RECOGNITION

#### **Best Bosses of 2005**

- Recognized for workplace practices  
*FORTUNE Small Business and Winning Workplaces*



## On-Time Guarantee

### BOWA Introduces *On-Time Guarantee*

*We meet the deadline or you go to Exclusive Resorts<sup>SM</sup>*

At BOWA Builders, we understand our clients want a proven process that delivers a quality construction project on time and on budget. Is that too much to ask? We don't think so.

With these objectives in mind, BOWA Builders is pleased to offer the area's first *On-Time Guarantee* for remodeling and custom home projects. Confident in our experience and proven processes, BOWA Builders promises to deliver our projects by an agreed-upon date. If we're not able to meet this deadline, the client will receive airfare and up to one week's accommodations at *Exclusive Resorts<sup>SM</sup>*, a leading luxury residence club offering unprecedented access to a portfolio

of hundreds of luxury vacation residences in the world's most desirable destinations.


BOWA makes this valuable promise in an effort to convey our commitment to ensuring our clients' satisfaction. Experience shows that a successful construction

*"BOWA makes this valuable promise in an effort to convey our commitment to ensuring our clients' satisfaction."*

project requires a shared commitment from all parties involved. Our *On-Time Guarantee* calls on the client to work in cooperation with the BOWA Team to make timely decisions and fully prepare the project for efficient construction. Our track record

demonstrates we know how to help our clients achieve their objectives and, as high-end construction experts, our goal and responsibility is to deliver results.

"BOWA's *On-Time Guarantee* has teeth," said BOWA Builders' COO David Flyer. "While others may talk about delivering their projects on time, we're doing it. Our guarantee puts this promise in writing and calls on BOWA to compensate the client if we fall short."

At BOWA Builders, we are very excited about formalizing our commitment to our clients in this manner. We're confident our new *On-Time Guarantee* will help to reinforce our clients' positive BOWA experience. 



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