

Eye-catching, two-toned kitchens



DVIRA OVADIA

LIVING BY DESIGN

When two-toned kitchen first hit the decorating scene, cream cabinets and a dark brown island was par-for-the-course. However, since becoming all the rage, designers have mixed things up a bit, straying from the rigid, cookie cutter design, choosing instead, gray, blue or even an array of wood finishes for the island. The two-toned kitchen design can also include framing the cabinetry in a certain wood grain or paint color, painting the top and bottom cabinets in different colors and stains or allowing a built in fridge or pantry to look like a free-standing piece of furniture.

Two-toned kitchen designs provide flexibility. When you can't decide between stain or paint, dark wood or frosted glass, two-toned kitchens allow you to choose both - adding interest and drama while drawing the eye to specific details or a focal point in the room.

Many years of experience designing kitchen spaces for my firm and on HGTV's Income Property has taught me that often when a painted finish is too

much for an entire kitchen and overpowers the space, it can still work quite nicely on just the island treating it like a fine piece of furniture. Even large, airy, contemporary kitchens can have a more grounded feel by simply contrasting the base cabinets with a darker color.

Recently, mixing and matching cabinet styles has also become a well-accepted practice for adding diversity to a modern kitchen. At Dvira Interiors, we have worked on numerous kitchen projects, combining sleek, flat slab doors on the base cabinets with shaker style doors on the upper cabinets. Combining cabinetry can also be a budget friendly option when you prefer a specialty cabinet, but can't afford to use it entirely throughout your kitchen. Although mixing your cabinets requires a bit more planning, it will give you that custom look you crave. We strive to create variations to standard cabinetry to provide a custom feel for our clients, from specialty door profiles, unique legs and even custom hoods. Most cabinetmakers today

will gladly customize any type of cabinet door to suit your needs.

Choosing the right cabinets and finishes for your kitchen can be challenging, and a designer can help you maximize the functional use of your space. Renovating your kitchen is one of the most important investments for your home; a designer will help you make the right choices, from space planning to color selections, while translating your vision.

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TIPS

1. Pick your top two color choices, and make sure that your millworker can produce large samples for your approval, prior to making a commitment to purchase.

2. Make sure that the accent finish color you have chosen complements the other hard finishes in your kitchen, such as the backsplash or flooring.

3. If your budget does not allow for a major overhaul, but your kitchen is screaming for a makeover, simply paint your existing cabinetry, and give your kitchen a new look for a quarter of the cost.

4. Your hardware is the jewel that adds drama to your kitchen - an exquisite necklace on a simple black dress. So, don't be afraid to mix hardware and introduce a combination of knobs, pulls and cup handles.



A designer can help you make the right choices for this very important renovation.



The accent colour should complement other hard finishes.



Don't be afraid to mix hardware.

Painting existing cabinetry offers a refresh.