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Contributing Editor

KITCHEN DESIGN



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THE STATEMENT MAKER

Design and fashion are ever-changing industries, but one thing has remained true over the years—every great design needs a “statement” piece. In the same way a fabulous outfit with a gorgeous dress and shoes would not be complete without that unique necklace, a great kitchen, whether large or small, must also have a focal point in a statement piece or wall that creates a “wow” element.

The key to designing the statement piece or wall is all about creating a focal point using layers of materials. Some of my favorite statement walls use an interesting tile that flows from the countertop all the way to the ceiling. The addition of a special hood enclosure made from various metals or different species of wood can create simplicity and clean lines to draw in the eye. Exciting cabinet hardware, the perfect cabinetry finish and an interesting countertop complete the aesthetic. While floating shelves or suspended shelves in front of a window add pop, the selection of perfect lighting sources to accent the statement wall is paramount.

Another way to make a statement in the kitchen is to design an island that stands out from the perimeter cabinets. There are endless ways to create an

outstanding island. First, you can select a very special wood for the cabinetry. For example, pecky cypress is a very unique wood, characterized by deep pockets or recesses created by fungi, where the finished product is imperfect and very interesting. Custom carved legs, corbels or even metal or acrylic legs can personalize your island, while adding a surprise wainscot panel on the exposed sides and back is an opportunity to incorporate a different design from the perimeter cabinetry. Crowning this unique center piece with a special countertop material such as concrete or zinc adds another interest layer, and accenting the toe kick area with either a furniture base or a recessed toe kick with concealed LED lighting can really offset your island in the evening and nighttime hours.

From any wall to the very center of the space, a kitchen statement piece can dial up the wow factor in your design. In fact, every wall should have its own little ‘pop’ in addition to the main statement wall or piece, so when you’re planning your new kitchen, don’t be afraid to incorporate that extra wow factor. It will add interest and excitement to the space you’ll fall in love with more each and every day! ♦

Catherine Whitney is the showroom manager and designer at SouthEnd Kitchens. She has 30 years experience in the kitchen and bath industry and works diligently with clients every step of the way. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 704-508-9505 or email Catherine at catherine@southendkitchens.com. The design studio is located in the historic Meeting Hall building at 1500 South Blvd, Suite 101-A. You can also visit South End Kitchens at www.sekdesignstudio.com.

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