

THE CONNECTICUT DESIGN GUIDE 2024



FROM THE EDITORS OF
CTC&G

DESIGNING YOUR DREAM HOME | READY, SET, DECORATE! | DREAMING OF KITCHENS +
BATHS | EMBRACING THE OUTDOORS | TIME TO ORGANIZE! | SHOPPING IN STYLE | THE LIST

DREAMING OF KITCHENS BATHS

In use from morning till night, no two rooms are more important in the functioning of the home than the kitchen and bath. Although utilitarian in nature, the most successful designs reflect the homeowner's lifestyle and personality. We asked the experts to weigh in on the ways their clients are adding their individual imprint to these spaces. Here's what they had to say.



PHOTOGRAPH BY HULYA KOLABAS FROM CTC&G OCTOBER 2022 "SIGHT LINES"

ADDING PERSONAL STYLE

“Kitchens are becoming far more luxurious. We are seeing a greater use of mixed material pairing—metal trims on open shelving, a mix of wood and paint finishes, and leather-lined drawers and upholstered elements—which make the kitchen less clinical and more decorated, for an individual look.” —**Christopher Peacock, Christopher Peacock, christopherpeacockhome.com**

“I TELL MY CLIENTS, ‘IT’S YOUR SPACE, DO WHAT YOU REALLY WANT, NOT NECESSARILY WHAT’S TRENDING OR WHAT IS GOOD FOR RESALE—YOU HAVE TO LIVE IN IT.’” —**Jeff Eakley, Bilotta Kitchen & Home, bilotta.com**

“Textures and pops of color can be small but impactful. We can achieve this through backsplash tile, wallpaper accents and hardware in the kitchen.” —**Maria N. Tanzi, Majestic Kitchens and Bath, majestickitchens.com**

“CUSTOMIZING KITCHEN SELECTIONS CAN TRANSFORM A GOOD KITCHEN INTO SOMETHING MEMORABLE. HOMEOWNERS EXPRESS THEIR PERSONALITIES THROUGH BOLD CABINET FINISHES IN STRONG COLORS, SOOTHING NEUTRALS OR EVEN METALS. CHOOSING SPECIALTY APPLIANCES OR WORKSTATION SINKS ARE ALSO AN OPPORTUNITY TO ELEVATE A KITCHEN DESIGN AND ADD PERSONALITY.” —**Peter Deane, Deane, deaneinc.com**



“Clients are continuing to enjoy their homes as personal sanctuaries. This means not only enjoying time together, but also incorporating products throughout the home that provide added beauty and health benefits.” —**Paul Grothouse, Grothouse, glumber.com**

CABINETRY: INTO THE WOODS

“Warm tones are back. Oak continues its great resurgence as a cabinetry material. New techniques in wood finishing allow beautiful finishes with cerused white, sandy, earthy or slightly grey tones to come forward. Walnut is a very elegant option that we continue to use in a variety of finishes, from natural to cocoa.” —**Joseph Najmy**

“While white is still classic, there has been a surge in wood in walnut and rift-cut oak.” —**Maria N. Tanzi**

“Wood adds warmth, and people are drawn to it. Not only does wood add natural beauty to a space, but it also provides sound absorption and it is a renewable product that isn’t mined and sequesters CO₂.” —**Paul Grothouse**

“WE ARE SEEING THE RE-EMERGENCE OF LIGHT WOODS IN KITCHEN PLANS, AS HOMEOWNERS GRAVITATE AWAY FROM DARK TONES.” —**Peter Deane**



“Rift-cut, white-oak veneer is very popular, in all different finishes. So are wood-like laminates in different textures and shades.” —**Jeff Eakley**

HARDWARE: ALL IN OR NOT AT ALL



“Decorative hardware is considered the ‘jewelry’ of the kitchen, with endless finishes and style options to elevate any design. For more modern kitchens, we are seeing channel-designed cabinetry that doesn’t require hardware, as well as a mechanical ‘touch to open’ feature for our technology-forward clients.” —**Peter Deane**



“Hardware for me is a must, as it is such an important part of the décor of the kitchen. We are using lots of brushed finishes and more bronze and brass.” —**Christopher Peacock**

“The handle-less kitchen has been in our portfolio for years with the Poggenpohl kitchen system. It’s super clean, understated, and elegant.” —**Joseph Najmy**

“THE HARDWARE DEPENDS ON THE DESIGN. IF IT’S A CONTEMPORARY KITCHEN, PEOPLE TEND TO FORGO HARDWARE FOR A CLEAN, SLEEK LOOK WITH EITHER A CHANNEL, BUILT-IN HARDWARE OR FINGER PULLS. MORE CLASSIC DESIGNS ARE MIXING FINISHES, LIKE BRASS OR CHROME, REGARDLESS OF THE FINISH ON THE APPLIANCES.” —**Jeff Eakley**

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