

Modern kitchen designs: what works for you?



Follow our free expert advice on trends in modern kitchen designs, thanks to expert Michael Kitchener.

What are some of the bells and whistles people can add to their kitchen renovation?

Drawers, drawers and more drawers! Corner drawer and sink drawer solutions are great, as are soft-close mechanisms. There are also internal storage solutions for drawers, like specialty dividers not only for your cutlery, but also for cooking utensils, stationery, pots and pans, Tupperware and pantry goods.

What sort of ballpark cost can you expect by adding these features?

Upgrading to BLUMOTION soft-close drawers can cost around \$60 per drawer. A corner drawer unit can add over \$1000 to the cost of a standard unit and specialty internal storage will add hundreds of dollars per drawer. A standard kitchen requires a minimum of one drawer bank (most people want four to seven) - each adds significantly to your costs.

What are some lesser known bells and whistles that can really enhance the look or function of a kitchen?

A handleless kitchen. Cabinets without handles will greatly change the look of a kitchen. Most bells and whistles are in the internals and the mechanism, not the external look, for example when closing a drawer or door, it will not go bang with the BLUMOTION soft-close mechanisms.

Is it important to budget for luxury add-ons at the beginning?

A good kitchen renovation is always a balance between form, function and budget. Ask: Does it look good, is it usable and can I afford it? I always suggest making a list of all the items that are essential and then a second wish list. That way you know from the beginning what you will be looking at.

How do you help people decide which bells and whistles they should have in their kitchen?

First of all, by showing them what's available - we do this through our showroom and our website. Items like the specialty internal storage solutions can always be added at a later date, unlike integrating drawers instead of cupboards. We evaluate the wish list and see what items should be included now or later, depending on the budget.

In your experience, are there any luxury add-ons that really aren't worth the money in a kitchen renovation?

There are different gizmos for different people - it's like choosing features in a new car, like a sun roof or power windows. To help with budgeting, all extra items should be priced separately. One of my favourite, but rarely included, items is the instant boiling, instant chilled water-filter tap. At \$2999 it's a very expensive kettle, but I love them.

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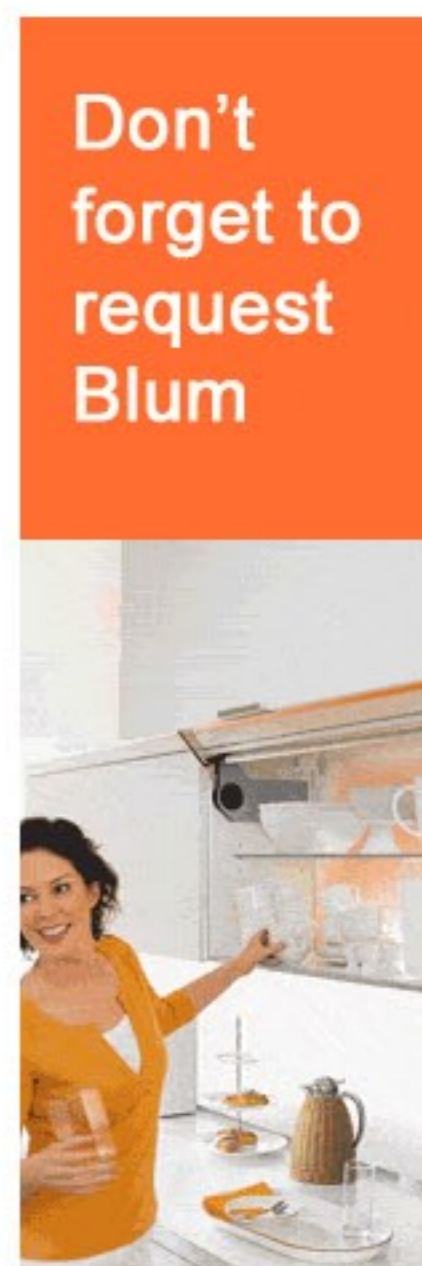
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