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SOUTH

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THE INNOVATIVE THINKERS ISSUE

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White Hot!

Classic white is reinvented in modern kitchens.

words GERI HIGGINS



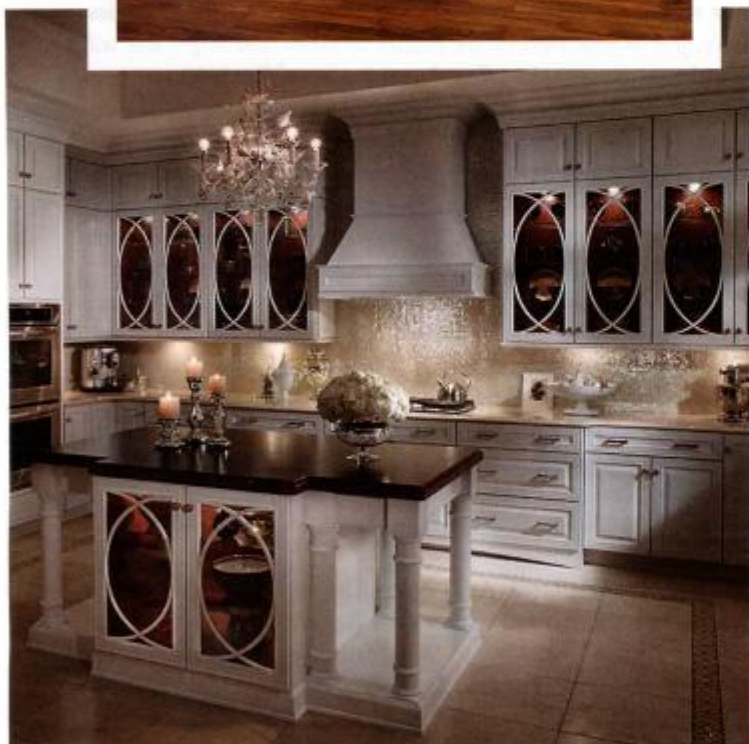
Without question, white is a classic in kitchen design. Beautiful and timeless, white cabinetry is a versatile choice for any kitchen. But today's interpretation is reinventing the color white into fresh and fabulous new designs that definitely won't be mistaken for your mother's white kitchen.

One of the primary attractions of white cabinetry is that it works with so many architectural styles and color palettes—from traditional to contemporary, country classic to urban chic. White finishes open a kitchen up to a number of choices in décor and style. White can be warm and comfortable, cool and sophisticated and everything in between. This “no boundaries” approach means the kitchen becomes a canvas to embellish as much or as little as desired. With so many choices available today in countertops, tile, flooring, appliances and accessories, it's easy to coordinate other design elements into the kitchen for a look that is uniquely yours.

By nature, white is very clean and projects a bit of a contemporary feel. European cabinetmakers have taken this perception to the extreme in contemporary styling. Their use of high gloss white acrylics and laminates was front and center when I attended the most recent Eurocucina Kitchen Design Expo in Milan, Italy. Decked out in stainless steel or nickel hardware, the clean lines of this glossy white look evoke the high style and urban sophistication of a New York penthouse. Want something more traditional? A design utilizing a classic raised panel or even shaker door style turns a white kitchen into a comfortable yet sophisticated environment reminiscent of a classic home in the Hamptons. A white kitchen can be “warmed up” even further with the application of a rich glaze to add depth or a “rub through” technique so that some of the warmth and beauty of the natural wood shows through. A white kitchen could also take on a “transitional” look by mixing traditional and contemporary elements. Start with a classic



DEFINED DESIGN



frame and panel cabinet door style, add nickel-finished hardware and stainless steel appliances, and you have a vibrant design that is both up-to-date and timeless. Regardless of style, white reflects light, brightening up the entire space, lifting one's spirits and evoking feelings of exhilaration within the environment.

Forget what you thought you knew about white. The bottom line on today's white is that it's an evolution of styling, a redefinition of what is thought of as a single color into an entirely fresh and new palette. Whatever your style remember, white is classic, sexy and totally hot! ♦

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