

The **Kitchen** is a **Window** on lifestyle and personality. It's the center of family life, the focal point of gathering and nourishment, where high-tech innovation meets time-tested comfort and hospitality. Take a look at how South Florida kitchen pros combine all these elements to help families express their own style.

BY ELIZABETH RAHE



An active young Jamaican family requested a **sleek, modern design** that opens onto living and dining areas and channels water-reflected light. It took some ingenuity – and the demolition of several walls – to create this space in their Coconut Grove getaway condo, which overlooks Biscayne Bay. One of the walls contained supporting columns, so Ann M. Morris of Allied Kitchen & Bath, dreamed up twin cabinets connected by a pass-through bar to hide them. The cabinet defines the kitchen and forms a nook for a light-washed office. The dark truffle-stained cabinetry contrasts with the light tones of frosted glass doors as well as the walls, ceiling and Italian porcelain tile floor. Stainless steel KitchenAid appliances and Zephyr island vent hood provide additional reflection, while Artus granite in the countertops and backsplash combines both darkness and light.

Kitchen design: Ann M. Morris, Allied Kitchen & Bath, Fort Lauderdale
Interior design: Ardelle Dalla Costa, Kingston, Jamaica
Dream Focus Photography

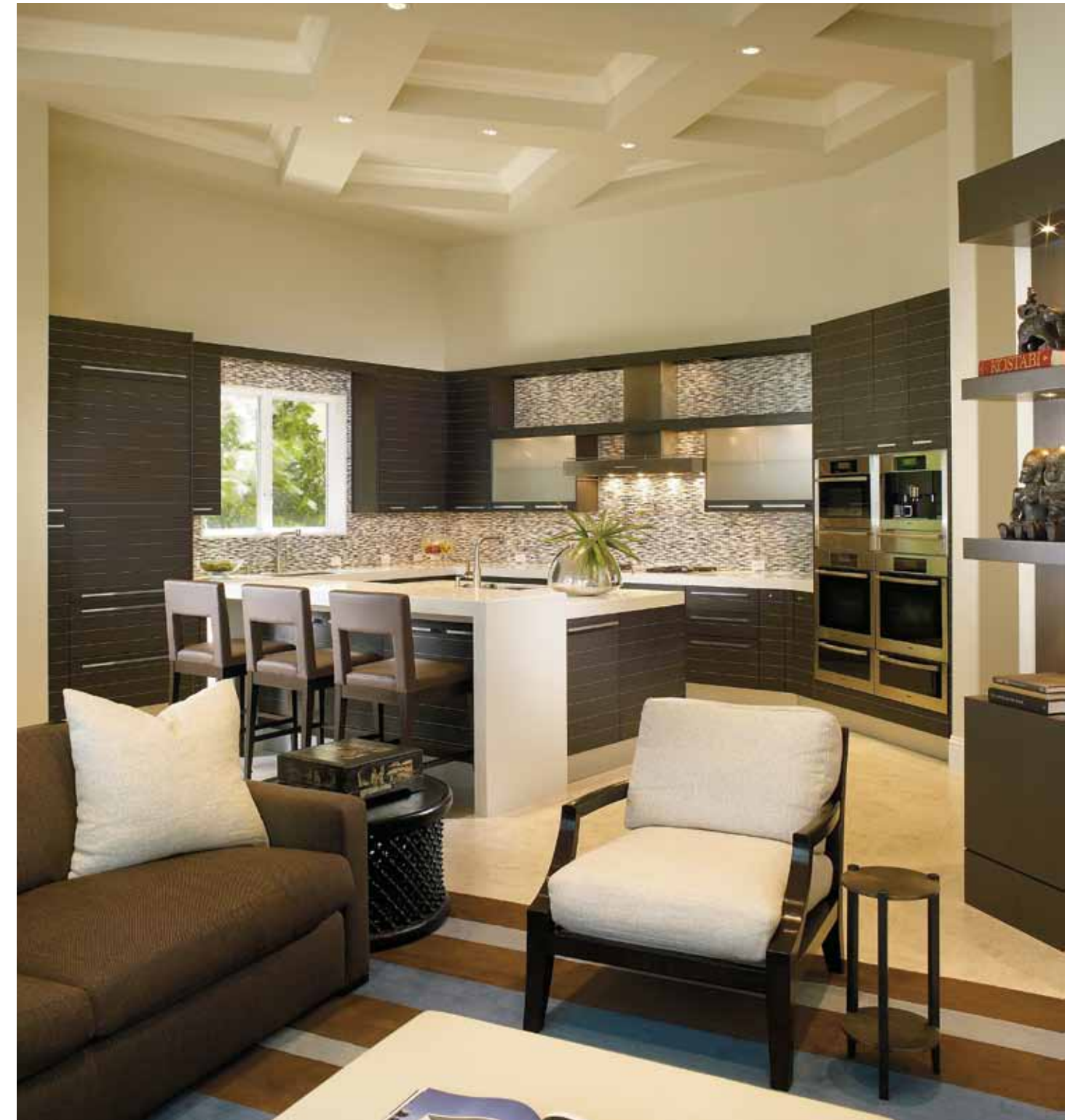


Vent hood turns art element, forming a dramatic focal point in this Hughes Cove kitchen in Coconut Grove. The custom stainless steel vent hood is set against a stainless steel mosaic backdrop to great effect. The homeowner, who likes to work at his breakfast table overlooking Biscayne Bay, wanted an inviting kitchen that would reflect the contemporary look of the home. Giselle Loor & Brett Sugerman of b and g design created the minimalist setting by selecting Poggenpohl cabinetry in European beech laminate with four-inch thick Absolute Black granite countertops. A sculptural Foscarini pendant light, composed of a series of parallel steel plates, adds an intriguing accent. The ceiling design, fashioned of multilayered drywall, echoes the home's geometric architecture and the hue of Saturnia flooring. Appliances, including a Sub-Zero refrigerator/freezer and Miele oven and cooktop, are seamlessly incorporated into the design.

Giselle Loor & Brett Sugerman, b+g design, Hollywood
Barry Grossman Photography

With vision and invention, a stylish contemporary kitchen fits within the Mediterranean-style walls of an Island Estates home in Aventura. Giselle Loor & Brett Sugerman of b and g design removed the walls enclosing the kitchen, opening it up to the family room and breakfast area and making way for a large island with a prep area and bar stools. Snaidero cabinetry in a gray oak finish with recessed stainless steel bands creates a futuristic look and contrasts with Blizzard White Caesarstone quartz countertops and Desert Cream limestone flooring. Zen Weave glass mosaic tile from Ann Sacks extends beyond backsplash territory to enliven the back corner. A Sub-Zero refrigerator/freezer and refrigerated drawers along with Miele ovens, coffee maker, gas/induction cooktop and dishwashers complete the picture. The clean, modern and very functional design is well suited to the homeowners, a couple with two children, a dog and a very busy life.

Giselle Loor & Brett Sugerman, b+g design, Hollywood
Barry Grossman Photography





Style and grace mark the Hawk's Landing kitchen of a high-profile Plantation couple who frequently host government dignitaries and business leaders. They worked with Eloise Kubli of Collective Construction & Design to create a classic, unpretentious kitchen that would accommodate frequent entertaining. Floor-to-ceiling maple cabinetry provides copious storage for cookware, china and glassware, with additional cabinetry, as well as another dishwasher and walk-in pantry in the butler's area. High-end appliances, often utilized by private chefs, include a Dacor wall oven, range, dishwasher and hood, Miele coffee/espresso maker and Sub-Zero refrigerator. A silk fabric valance, suspended with rings from a stainless steel rod, picks up the hue of Tivoli Light marble flooring. Blue halogen globe lights emphasize the peacock flecks in the Labrador Antico granite countertop and backsplash.

Eloise Kubli of Collective Construction & Design, Plantation
 2009 Dream Home Gold Award
 Robinette Homes, Plantation
 Kim Sargent Photography



The flavor of Italy infuses this Hawk's Landing kitchen in Plantation. A couple with two young children wanted a traditional home with a casual elegance that reflected their Italian heritage. Interior designer Eloise Kubli of Collective Construction & Design orchestrated this effect with attention to intricate detail. For an Old World appearance, she chose hand-troweled, faux-finished walls and richly embellished walnut cabinetry that was painted and distressed. For the countertops she selected Santa Cecilia granite with a double ogee bullnose edge; for the stove backsplash, a texture-rich combination of Antiquity Tile and Oceanside mosaic glass tile. The lighting fixtures offer the crowning Italian accent: bronze olives and leaves entwined on hand-blown Scavo glass globes.

Eloise Kubli, Collective Construction & Design, Plantation
 2008 ASID Excellence Award
 Robinette Homes, Plantation
 Kim Sargent Photography



Entertaining is the point of this LaGorce Island kitchen in Miami Beach, be it white-glove formal or down-home casual. The kitchen opens up to a family and breakfast room, where six chairs at the bar facilitate casual meals and conviviality. For a larger party, the shutters close, allowing a catering staff to work with tools of the trade: dual Sub-Zeros and refrigeration drawers and Wolf gas range and ovens. A swinging door leads to the formal dining room. White-painted mahogany cabinets feature a mix of solid and glass-paned doors. Marble and granite from Opustone adds a timeless elegance. The salt-and-pepper look of White Delicatus granite, finished with a double ogee bullnose edge, stretches across countertops and backsplashes. The floors feature 36-by-36-inch Crema Marfil Antique marble with Cappuccino onyx and Koala Water Jet inserts. A movable ladder glides on tracks, allowing easy access to china and glassware in higher cabinets.

Insignia Development Group, Miami
Eric Schigiel, Opustone Granite & Marble, Miami

The globetrotting couple wanted a **light and tranquil kitchen** – a kitchen that said home whenever they returned to Lighthouse Point. Scott Waksmacki of Broward Custom Kitchens fostered this placid sense with a cream-on-cream design featuring signature cabinetry accented with layered moldings, corbels and farmhouse-style posts. Matching panels camouflage a Thermador refrigerator/freezer, and stainless steel adds sheen in a DCS gas stove and Thermador ovens. The porcelain-tile backsplash is punctuated with a geometric design behind the range, created with a mix of earthtone-stones. Countertops in honed Winter Clouds marble contribute subtle contrast. The island's chipped marble produces an edge of controlled chaos in the otherwise orderly design.

Scott Waksmacki, Broward Custom Kitchens, Fort Lauderdale



The Mediterranean architecture of this Island Estates waterfront home in Aventura is carried through in the kitchen for a timeless beauty. A welcoming hearth structure and echoing arch shapes generate a classic feel. Giallo Veneziano granite countertops and travertine flooring continue the theme. Buff-colored cabinetry ties in with the stone, including the door panels on a Sub-Zero refrigerator and matching freezer. The kitchen also features a Viking gas stove and double oven and a Miele dishwasher, plus an extra one in the butler's pantry. The adjacent breakfast and family room presents a versatile space for entertaining, while leather and wrought-iron bar chairs offer the opportunity for a quick bite or an intimate chat with the cook. Designed as a model, the house is now home to the developer, Gary Cohen. "My wife fell in love with it," he says.

Mitch Kunik & Brian Collins, Affiniti Architects, Boca Raton
Bob Martin, The Decorators Unlimited, Palm Beach Gardens
Island Estates, Aventura
Brantley Photography



SOURCES

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Allied Kitchen & Bath, 616 W. Oakland Park Blvd., Fort Lauderdale 33311, 954-564-1611, alliedkitchenandbath.com.

b+g design, 2001 Harrison St., No. 3, Hollywood 33020, 965-929-6949, bandgdesign.com.

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Island Estates, 2750 NE 185th St., Aventura, 33180, 305-935-9206, island-estates.com.

Opustone, 3200 NW 77th Court, Miami 33122, 888-900-OPUS, opustone.com. Opustone Value Vault clearance center, 3192 NW 77th Court, Miami 33122, 305-594-2555.

Robinette Homes, 10400 Kestrel St., Plantation 33324, 954-370-7172, robinettehomes.com.