

the U.S. (I'm still wiping the drool from my chin after a recent visit to the Summerland showroom!)

This is the fourth evolution for Reed's since the couple purchased the flooring business in late 2010. First they expanded with fabrics, then furniture and now have added European cabinetry to the menu. Romain Doussineau says they are simply filling a niche. "We've heard from many homeowners and designers who want the latest in modern design, but don't want to have to travel to L.A. to get it."

#### Counter Culture

Regardless of your style, all three kitchen creators point out that granite is no longer the countertop material of choice. They say quartz is the current favorite — Offering an option to higher maintenance marble and stone.

"It is consistent, easy to care for and is available in lighter colors," says Clayton.

#### Essential Ingredients

Whether your aesthetic tilts toward the traditional, or modern materials are your muse don't be afraid to mix it up. The juxtaposition of rough with refined, or industrial meets sleek can be quite appetizing. Myriam Doussineau believes some of the most interesting and inviting kitchens are those that blend styles.

"The trend is transitional. Contemporary with traditional, smooth lacquer paired with textured wood. It gives more life to the space."

#### Recipe for Success

Whatever your style, Amery says the most important ingredient in the design of a kitchen is careful planning. "Functionality comes first, the design has got to be right. You can have a stunning kitchen, but if the layout doesn't work you won't be happy."

While it might be too late to renovate your space for this wonderful kitchen-centric season, it's never too early to start planning for the next. As a houseaholic, with another kitchen renovation right around the corner, I had to ask "what will we be craving next?" Insiders say look for Scandinavian style, Shaker influences and beautiful blonde woods. Sounds delicious, doesn't it?!!

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## The Houseaholic What's Cookin?



No longer behind closed doors. Today's modern kitchens are front and center in living and dining rooms.

Courtesy Reed Interiors

By Andrea Cambern

I love this time of the year. Autumn has always been my favorite season. The changing leaves, brisk air and that bright blue sky all have a lot to do with it. But so does the aroma wafting from an oven filled with the tasty traditions of the season. For the next two months, the kitchen — more than any other time of the year — becomes the center of the universe! That said, I have to be honest, the only thing I make is reservations! In fact, I store my sweaters in the oven. Still, having a welcoming, wonderful — pull up a



Rift cut White Oak cabinets with Shaker style doors and Ceasarstone countertops provide a clean and comfortable cooking environment.

Courtesy Projects by Giffin & Crane

Rustic and refined. Mixing reclaimed wood with sleek surfaces is a recipe for success when designing and provides a warm and welcoming kitchen.

Courtesy Willis Cabinetry

stool and stay awhile — kitchen is on everyone's wish list.

"Oh, I agree! Kitchens are so much fun," says Christi Clayton, President of Projects — A Giffin & Crane Company that renovates a lot of kitchens. Projects' motto is "small changes, big impact" and Clayton says renovating a kitchen can transform not only how a home looks, but how it lives.

"The options are endless to make a big impact and build a space that people want to be in, cooking or not."

Gone are the days when kitchens were hidden from sight. When swinging service doors kept the sounds and scents concealed.

"Instead of kitchens being a room of their own, people are knocking down walls to make them part of a larger room like the dining room or living room. It's where the family hangs out," Clayton says.

Gillian Amery has witnessed the coming out of the kitchen first hand. The owner of The Kitchen Store in Santa Barbara has been crafting kitchens on the Central Coast for nearly 30 years. "Now more than ever the kitchen is a gathering place," she says. Not only that, it's

the space where culinary creativity is on display and the coolest appliances, gizmos and gadgets are featured front and center. "Built in coffee makers, steamers and induction cooktops are very popular," she says. But the biggest shift according to Amery is in color and texture.

"The palette is much lighter, grey has become quite popular and so have textured laminates." And she says modern is making a major comeback. "A lot of customers are asking for slab style doors, that European look."

That is music to Myriam and Romain Doussineau's ears. The couple owns Reed Interiors and just unveiled a kitchen design studio featuring one of Italy's premiere kitchen cabinet manufacturers. Reed is the first to import the sleek, sensual Armony kitchens to



Modern kitchens are making a big comeback. Lacquer, wood, leathered marble provide an interesting mix.

Courtesy Reed Interiors