



Mattoni island with Deluxe materials

## Exploring the evolution of Kitchen Design: Insights from Salone del Mobile Milano 2024 and Milan Design Week

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This past March, while at Milan Design Week to source for vendors and inspiration for our whole-home projects, specifically exploring kitchens at Salone del Mobile Milano revealed an exciting array of possibilities.

At BKI, we design kitchens of all sizes, from expansive residential settings and entertainment hubs to outdoor havens and pool houses. Thus, it's a must for us to remain fully informed with the latest

kitchen innovations and progression of direction.

**The prevailing design direction observed at Milan Design Week was the blurring boundary of kitchen and**

**living spaces within the home.** This fusion significantly influenced design choices, finishes, and color palettes. As domestic life has continued to evolve post-COVID, the merging of these spaces has become increasingly apparent, fostering sociability, facilitating shared meal preparation, and enhancing the overall living experience.

**A departure from the all-white kitchens of the past was evident,** with a resurgence of retro design elements such

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Signature Appliance model kitchen

as rounded corners, fluting accent detail, or linear slats with specialty veneers. These elements looked quite new and bold compared with the traditionally shaped islands and features we have been living amongst for the past few decades. Backsplashes ranged from retro-inspired vibrant colors in navy blue, green and terracotta, to more modern materials of Corian, quartz slabs, stainless, or wood veneers. Timeless and eco-conscious materials such as bamboo, recycled glass, and sustainable countertops gained prominence throughout all these designs.

**Clean lines and minimalist detailing in cabinetry, devoid of hardware, accentuated the space's streamlined elegance** and conveyed a sense of simple, serene comfort. Wood, bamboo, or tile such as terracotta flooring experienced a modern

revival, infusing spaces with warmth and timeless character.

*Sustainable, repurposed and reclaimed woods like oak and ash transformed refrigerator panels into sculptural statements that redefined the appliance's role within the kitchen.* These aforementioned woods or specialty veneers such as burlled poplar, zebrawood, ceruse oaks, and cork were often seen in **Cabinetry that had gone from utilitarian feeling to more craftsman furniture-feel in nature, and set the tone for the entire space.**

The kitchen island, once a static fixture, had evolved into a versatile centerpiece, blending different shapes, textures, finishes, and materials, while remaining functional and multipurpose. **To enhance the clean, minimalist aesthetic, kitchen islands were designed without**



Shake Cool curved island shape



Mattoni wine wall and bookcase

**pendant lights**, opting instead for recessed lighting and under-cabinet lighting. This choice drew added attention and importance to the accent lighting of the



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adjoining living spaces, plus added to the flexibility of the kitchen space itself, and contributed to the streamlined elegance that was so prevalent in contemporary designs showcased in Milan.

**In the realm of the “Living Hub”, technological integration played a pivotal role, enhancing cleanliness, flexibility, and convenience.** From the prevalence of touchless faucets offered in a wider range of designer high-end finishes, AI-suggested recipes with existing ingredients and supplies, to programmable voice-controlled appliances, smart technology enriched the living experience.



Miele camera in handleless oven

**The kitchen designs seen at Salone del Mobile Milano, and the insights from Milan Design Week, underscored the emergence of, along with the immediate desires and availability of, modern living spaces.** At BKI, our dedication to staying up to date with the latest progression of directions, ensures that we can respond to the needs and desires of our clientele, while ensuring our designs remain aesthetically beautiful. Our projects also remain versatile, functional and adaptable to the ever-changing world we are so proudly immersed within. For our clients, we strive to craft homes that exceed their expectations, enhancing the quality of their day-to-days within these homes and their lives.

A large advertisement for Gault Family Companies. The background is a photograph of a modern outdoor patio with a brick building in the background. The patio is paved with light-colored stone and porcelain tiles. There is a dark metal outdoor furniture set on the patio. The Gault logo is prominently displayed in the upper right, along with contact information for two showrooms.

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