

Kitchen organization

by Joan Boram
Special Writer

Traditionally, a kitchen was a simple room, devoted to a single task: food preparation. Equipped with certain basic appliances, one cooked something to render it edible, optimally delicious, and then one (or more) sat down and ate.

Social and technological changes, however, have conspired to impose new disciplines on the traditional kitchen. For one thing, everybody seems to need a home office, even if it's just a nook for the computer.

For another, we have been blessed with enough high-tech toys and tools to make The Jetsons cringe. Unless you're going to leave your microwave, coffee maker, toaster oven, food processor, electric can opener, and slow cooker on the countertop, you need more space.

and don't forget green! Today's kitchen is also energy-efficient, and a recycling center.

"Everybody needs more kitchen space," says Dan DeGiulio, owner of DeGiulio Kitchen and Bath Centers, in Livonia. "But the average consumer has no idea that in the past five years, the number of space-saving devices has increased 10-fold.

"It's a matter of educating the consumer.

The first thing we do when discussing a kitchen remodeling is go to the client's house and look at the old kitchen. We find out what they like and dislike. Often the problem is accessibility - they can't easily get at things once they've been put away."

DeGiulio often begins by recommending frameless cabinets: there are no bulky frames to take up space. Double-tiered silverware drawers afford twice as much space as a traditional drawer: When you pull the drawer out, a tray in the drawer slides back, placing the bottom tray in full view.

One of the handiest features has to be the roll-out shelves that pull out when a cabinet door below the countertop is opened. You can see the entire contents of the shelf. No more wondering what happened to your rubber gloves, or the marble polish.

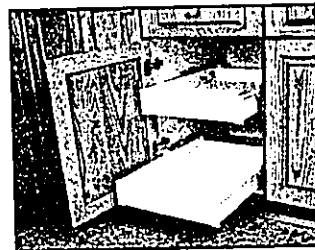
"One of the most popular items are 'garages' for appliances," says DeGiulio. "They provide a space for all those appliances such as toasters that you might use only once or twice a day. Just open a little door, and slide out the appliance. When you're finished, just slide it back in again, and close the door."

Today's kitchen is as much a gathering and entertaining center as a cooking area, a trend that began in the mid '80s.

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The DeGiulio kitchen — structurally correct, compartmentalized for convenience and organized for clutter free cabinets!



Containers like these (left) are good for compact space-saving. Right, slide-out panels make getting to the back of the cupboard easier.

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