

# BEYOND THE WHITE KITCHEN

THREE UNIQUE KITCHEN DESIGNS SPEAK TO HOMEOWNER PERSONALITIES WITH MIXED MATERIALS, INTERESTING TEXTURES, AND GENEROUS POPS OF COLOR.

ANNIE CEBULSKI

**T**he all-white kitchen has practically become a design standard in remodeling as homeowners seek to emulate the squeaky clean renovations seen on HGTV. But as the pandemic influences design trends toward personalization and remodelers tire of designing the same kitchen over and over, there is an undercurrent of change in the industry.

“We went from white kitchens to the white kitchen with the blue island, and now we’re slowly seeing a shift into even more color,” says Michael Ansel, president of Otogawa-Ansel Design + Build in Minneapolis. “We’re already seeing gray replacing white and dual-tone and tri-tone kitchens emerging.”

Nearly a third of designer and remodeler respondents for the National Kitchen and Bath Association’s 2021 market outlook desire more color and style options for cabinetry, and two of the dominant trends seen at the 2021 IBSx included designs featuring mixed metals and bold colors. Even the 2021 Houzz Kitchen Trends Report noted the rise in color despite the industry continuing to favor neutral tones: Although a small change, the report found that white cabinetry experienced a statistically significant decrease in popularity (down four percentage points) while multicolored cabinetry gained traction (a gain of two percentage points).

Here, *Pro Remodeler* spotlights three kitchen designs that go beyond monochromatic white.



## BAXTER CONSTRUCTION, HOPEWELL, N.J.

This eclectic red kitchen challenged the remodelers at Baxter Construction to play up the design’s funky factor without making the room look too loud or dated. The project’s lead designer and sales director for Baxter Construction, Candice Smith, mixed textures, sheens, and colors to create a unique showstopper that surprised even their local fabricator. With the bright appliances in San



THERE'S BEEN A TENDENCY FOR MANY, MANY YEARS, IF NOT DECADES, THAT THE HARDWARE HAS TO MATCH THE FAUCET AND THE LIGHT FIXTURES HAVE TO MATCH EVERYTHING. —GABE SEPULVEDA



## JACKSON DESIGN & REMODELING, SAN DIEGO

A few times each year, the homeowners of this San Diego abode host a party of more than 100 guests. With that event in mind, Jackson Design & Remodeling set out to make a kitchen that would stand out not only for its aesthetics, but for its functionality. "They wanted it to be easy to move the piano around, so wood floors were out of the question," says Gabe Sepulveda, senior interior designer for Jackson Design and Remodeling. "We decided to start with warm gray porcelain tiles for the floor."

Despite the white used for some of

the cabinetry and the kitchen island, the overall design is full of mid-century modern complexity: walnut, brushed brass, stainless steel, matte black, muted blues, and glossy acrylic finishes.

Mixing materials isn't easy, but the team pulled it off by selecting very intentional hardware and finishes for each section of the kitchen and ensuring the entire design remained cohesive. Sepulveda knew he wanted to incorporate brushed brass as a nod to 1950s design, but he didn't want to do it on the faucets because he worried it might look dated too quickly. He found a better opportunity for the brass finish in some of the cabinetry hardware and

lighting fixtures. For the white upper cabinets, Jackson Design & Remodeling avoided using any visible hardware by adding recessed handles and installing a slide-out ventilation hood, with a glass canopy to keep the look streamlined.

Above the oven cabinets, an opening gives guests a peek into the kitchen and shows off the Sputnik chandelier. With 12 Edison bulbs and brushed brass and matte black finishes, the fixture is a centerpiece of the remodeled kitchen. The waterfall kitchen island pulls the room together. The main body borrows materials from the cabinetry while the wall behind the barstools repeats the backsplash's subway tile pattern, but in white.