

HOMES
OF THE HAMPTONS

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Home Central

There is just no way around the cliché: the kitchen is the heart of the home. It is common ground in the household. Ever functional, it is a place for celebrating, to work, to seek comfort and, of course, to dine.



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Given that so much time is spent in the kitchen, it makes sense that it should function optimally. A renovation might be in order and there are a number of designers and purveyors who can help. Most of the same designers can also help you with your bathroom.

A kitchen renovation can cost as much as a new car, usually from \$10,000 to \$50,000 or more for cabinetry alone, but it is well worth the investment. A solid investment in the beginning is the best guarantee that your kitchen will look great for years to come. Before parting with your precious dollars, it is wise to seek the services of a qualified designer or architect.

Bob Wolfram, a certified kitchen designer at Riverhead Building Supply in East Hampton, is a leader in the industry. Practicing his craft for the past 25 years, he has designed some of the most beautiful kitchens on the East End. "It feels good to cook in a well-designed kitchen, and if it looks beautiful and has great lighting, you'll savor the time spent there preparing meals and entertaining friends," said Wolfram.

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English finery is the stamp of Clive Christian. The Regency kitchen is a classic timeless style featuring hand painted and gold leafed cabinetry with fluted capital pilasters and frieze details.



Kitchens & Baths

John and Rae Packard of Packard Cabinetry, with 60 years of experience in the industry between them, subscribe to a similar philosophy. It is their goal to integrate the client's aesthetic preferences with a well-designed and functional workspace. The talented and skilled cabinetmakers at Packard will custom-build pieces for your kitchen including reproductions.

An architect brings to the design table ideas that consider the big picture. Rather than working with blinders on to the rest of the house, an architect will design a kitchen that will fit seamlessly into the style and function of the house as a whole. For architect James Merrell, the first order of business is to throw away the kitchen design rule book. That includes the "kitchen triangle" concept and the notion that residential kitchens are all about efficiency. "Good residential kitchens," said Merrell, "are gathering places for families and friends and need to support many more activities than just food preparation."

Merrell also applies that broad thinking to bathrooms. It's time to think about bathrooms as rooms, too, because like kitchens, a bathroom may "serve as a gathering place, especially for families with young children," he said. "No matter who is relaxing in the tub in the evening, this is one of the best places to share the news of the day."

Architect Audrey Matlock agrees. "Eating and bathing are two of the most sensual activities we engage in," said Matlock. The evolution of "cooking as sport has led to significant changes in kitchen design," she adds. But in spite of the proliferation of products for kitchens and baths, Matlock prefers to design kitchens and bathrooms that are "clean and spare, where water and light are important architectural elements. It narrows the field a lot and gives focus to the sensual aspect of activities instead of the opulence of materials." *Continued on page 71*





ABOVE: Central Kitchens coordinates all phases of kitchen design and installation with beautiful results. **RIGHT:** Architect Audrey Matlock prefers that the design elements, albeit clean and spare, take precedence to materials. **FAR RIGHT:** A built-in wine cooler and bar sink are just two of the functional details in this kitchen by Packard Cabinetry. **FACING PAGE:** The claw-footed tub takes center stage in this bathroom by Joe Burns.

Far Right Photo : Steven Ogilvy



Kitchens & Baths

Clive Christian has a reputation for its collection of fine hand-painted and antique-finished wood cabinetry, which would be equally at home in a kitchen or a bath. The company is known worldwide for its designs that are distinctly English. Manufactured in England, the cabinetry is designed exclusively for each client's home. It is then installed and finished on site by the company's skilled craftsmen. Clive Christian prides itself on attention to detail regarding the job at hand as well as attention to clients throughout the process.

Another source is Central Kitchens in Southampton. Serving the area for 50 years, it is a kitchen, bath and entertainment cabinetry dealer offering complete lines of stock and custom cabinetry featuring names such as Quality, CraftMaid, Plain & Fancy, and Diamond, among others. Central Kitchens also provides full service installation and project oversight from start to finish so that there is less inconvenience to the homeowner during renovation and construction.

Timelessness is key in kitchen design for Sea Cliff-based interior designer Marilyn Rose. Add to that function and aesthetics and you've got all the elements for a great kitchen, she said.

Some contractors, however, are seeing a definite trend. Joe Burns, of Joe Burns Contracting, says that modern kitchens are what his clients are asking for. This year he has done more "metropolitan" style kitchens than ever.

The kitchen is arguably the most important room in the house. As such it should be given its due



and honored with a design that serves more than its given purpose. And the bathroom is often the last room to be given the style and design it deserves. Make the most of your kitchen and bathroom by finding a designer that reflects your needs and style. ■ ~Kim Covell



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