

TALES FROM A KIDNAPPING

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CHEF ERIC BAKER
OF REBEL HOUSE



Kitchen & Bath 2021

Today's kitchen is a showplace worthy of important art, as demonstrated in this dreamy design by Nikki Levy. She whipped up a creamy palette for the custom island and pleated stools to accent Viewpoint Cabinetry's white shaker doors around the perimeter. The marble countertops by Stone Nature gleam with high polish and clean-cut edges, while stylish Kelly Wearstler pendants bring drama from overhead.

Kitchen and bath design—like other house upgrades—has flourished during our stay-at-home year.

Written by **ROBIN HODES**

As we approach the end of a year we aren't soon to forget, one thing we can agree on is that we've adjusted to a new way of life ... and how we live at home is no exception. If there's a silver lining to the cloud of 2020, it's that home and family are more important now than they've been in a long time. The home is now where it's at. Work, fitness, dining and entertainment—it's all happening under one roof. As a result of the new normal, two all-important spaces—the kitchen and bath—are seeing a change for the better.

Here, we've gathered designer tips, rounded up trending products, and identified the latest technology to help you adapt your kitchens and baths to where we are, and where we're heading.



(above): Levy had toe-kick lighting installed to illuminate the oak floor, which is installed in a herringbone pattern for added visual interest. She selected matte gold hardware to embellish the doors and drawers with sophistication.

(right): Levy's kitchen concept for an upcoming project features a harmonious blend of earthy tones for the cabinetry, and as an unexpected, exciting element with aesthetic appeal and purpose, the island doubles as a fire table.



Nikki Levy

THE HUB

Devoted clients of Boca Raton's Nikki Levy Interiors turn to principal Nikki Levy to help them create beautiful spaces. And does she ever. Levy and her team create bespoke, curated rooms with impeccable style and grace, and they do so with incredible passion. The South African-born creator brings not only a global design view that extends far beyond South Florida, but also, as a wife and mother of three, valuable insight on how interior design must not only strive for a beautiful aesthetic but also serve the needs of everyday family living.

Levy explains that integrating the kitchen into other communal living spaces—making it the hub of the home—is a worldwide trend. “I see this in California, South Africa, and elsewhere ... not just here,” she says. “Gathering in and around the kitchen is not

a new concept; it's just that we've embraced it.”

Levy attributes this to the less formal, more down-to-earth lifestyles we enjoy nowadays. “The idea of hiding the mess in the background is done,” she states. “People have gotten real. Yes, cooking can get messy, but it has become an event that nourishes the soul.”

Design-wise, Levy says things are warming up. “I'm seeing a movement away from the all-white kitchen,” she says. “The white shaker cabinet will be forever, but now I'm also blending in honey, sandy and desert tones.” Additionally, she finds clients are tending toward man-made products due to their durability. “People today are very into the organic and reclaimed, but there's something to be said for the ‘won't chip and peel’ aspect of laminate ... especially for busy families.”

THE HIDEAWAY

The antithesis of the gathering space, the bath is an escape—a place to retreat from the stresses of life.

“The master bath should be your one sacred and private space,” Levy advises.

Levy is currently loving the use of porcelain (especially on an oversized scale), though she acknowledges that nothing can ever be quite as beautiful as natural stone. “Marble will never be ‘out,’ but some people are put off by the upkeep,” she notes.

“Bathrooms have become amazing design spaces,” she remarks. Some of Levy’s designer bath touches include mosaic details for dimension, sconces and

hanging pendants in lieu of traditional vanity lights, and decorative drawer and cabinet pulls “that are like the jewelry.” Whereas the master bath is a place of tranquility, Levy sees the powder room as a fun space where you can create drama and even go a little over the top. “People are in and out of the powder room quickly, so it should have a big wow factor,” she says.

As far as wallpaper, she doesn’t waver. “Anybody who doesn’t love wallpaper hasn’t been shown what it can do,” says Levy. “It’s like saying you don’t like nature. That just means you haven’t been to the right space.” nikkilevyinteriors.com



(left): This exquisite powder room boasts a decorative onyx wall installed by Artistic Tile and a honey-toned uplit vanity custom-designed by Nikki Levy Interiors. The organically shaped mirror and woven pendants—both from Palace—are a nod to nature.

(above): Levy’s precious treatment of the master bath—an elegant yet informal modern retreat—includes custom designed and colored cabinetry with black mesh inserts and an expanse of mother-of-pearl on both the vanity and shower wall.

(right): The custom table, shapely decorative lamp, and gorgeous Phillip Jeffries wallpaper make this a stunning dressing area.

