

Form and Function

WITH CUSTOM CABINETS FROM NEWTON KITCHENS & DESIGN, YOU NEVER HAVE TO SACRIFICE FASHION FOR FUNCTION.

BY ABBY BIELAGUS

Pierre and Tricia Matta founded Newton Kitchens & Design with the inspiration to offer custom cabinetry and millwork with exacting standards. A former contractor, Pierre saw what the luxury market expected and he knew he could provide it. It's not just about insisting on the highest quality box construction materials, durable finishes and highly functional interior components—every detail of the cabinetry is considered during the design process including custom stains, material lining for drawer boxes, and interior or ambient lighting to illuminate an area of the cabinetry.

Thankfully the fastidious, almost obsessive, attention to detail doesn't hinder the design, but enhances it. "There is a lot of customization involved in the process," says lead designer Erica Palm. "The emphasis on creating cabinetry and millwork really elevates the space in terms of function and style," she says. She and the rest of the team work closely with their clients to design the most functional layout while leveraging the company's ability to create custom cabinet door designs and use unique



materials and finish options.

Palm notices that clients these days approach their kitchen design with more interest and knowledge than clients of the past. Luckily, she's able to meet them where they are with plenty of options for materials. "Pierre has always had an interest in bringing in new materials and different woods," says Palm.

These days, wood is in. People are using it, not just in their kitchens, but in all of their cabinetry. "Adding wood finishes, like a rift cut white oak, brings warmth and sophistication to a clean white kitchen. A recent project designed with a custom stained walnut slab door came out so elegant," she says.

In general, Palm sees her clients getting more earthy and moving away from grays and into warmer tones like oaks and beiges. They're passing on the quartz for natural stones. She has a theory for the recent

shift. "With more open concept living, people are pulling wood from the adjoining space into the kitchen. We love when everything talks to each other," she says.

And kitchens themselves are becoming much more engaging. "People want to express their style," says Palm. To this end, she works with the client to design a space that is not only stunning, but functional. "It's so important to have the storage actually be usable," she says. For example, in a recent project, Newton Kitchens & Design enhanced the style and function of the cooking wall by adding two 84-inch tall, spice pull-out cabinets with 5-inch wide adjustable baskets to each end of the wall. This offered a creative bookend design to the cabinet run and an opportunity to include a unique backsplash material to that area. "Usable storage is the goal, especially for corner cabinets and for wall cabinets in kitchens with high ceilings. It is a very simple concept with a huge impact. We have included pull down upper shelves in certain projects," says Palm.

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From left: Designer Erica Palm; Newton Kitchens & Design created a space that speaks to each other from the kitchen to the bathroom to the dining room.

The Galley Workstation is a popular choice for clients looking to up their kitchen's performance. The sink ranges in size from three to eight feet with two perimeter ledges to hold cutting boards, strainers and other tools. The workstation allows cooks to streamline their prep and clean-up and not clutter up their counter surfaces. Palm is also able to customize the space underneath with drawers and cabinets. "Making the kitchen as functional as possible is one of the most fun parts for me. We can really look at the space, make a layout that's specific for their needs and use the cabinets to enhance that. It's not just two doors and a shelf anymore. There are so many different ways to build cabinets and we can make them specific to their appliances. We can adjust to make sure that everything fits and then install it in a way that makes it really streamlined, especially for our modern designs," says Palm.

With each cabinet built from the first piece of wood to the last finish, fashion and function seamlessly blend.