

Designing Possibilities

BY ROSEMARY PORTO

For the owner of Newton Kitchen & Design, Pierre Matta, great design begins long before a single cabinet is drawn or a countertop is selected. It starts with a conversation, one that often surprises new clients. Instead of asking only about room dimensions or favorite paint colors, Matta wants to know what car they drive, where they vacation, which hotels they love, and even what jewelry they wear. The questions are intentional. They reveal far more than aesthetics; they uncover a client's aspirations, lifestyle, and personal definition of luxury.

Pierre Matta



"My goal is to change a client's perception of what's possible," he explains.

His philosophy has become the foundation of Newton Kitchen & Design, where the word unique surfaces repeatedly when describing the firm's work. Every project is designed to reflect the homeowner's individuality rather than simply follow the latest trends.

While trends do influence today's kitchens, Matta believes they should be interpreted with restraint and personality. White kitchens remain as popular as ever, particularly in high-gloss finishes, but today's designs introduce warmth and visual interest through richly veined natural quartzite countertops and durable porcelain surfaces, a material long favored in European design. Color also finds its way into patterned backsplashes and textured wall finishes. For walls, Venetian



plaster continues to be a favorite, while the growing popularity of limewash paint creates a soft, moody finish with the appearance of natural clay, adding subtle depth and character.

For clients seeking something truly one of a kind, Matta collaborates with fine artists to create custom artwork on cabinet fronts, transforming functional cabinetry into distinctive pieces of imagination and craftsmanship.

Wood finishes continue to evolve as well. White oak remains highly sought after for its clean, contemporary warmth, although increasing demand has made it more difficult to source. Dark cabinetry in black and charcoal gray also remains a timeless choice, especially when paired with crisp white finishes.

When it comes to appliances, Matta is unwavering in his recommendation of Sub-Zero and Wolf. After visiting the company's Wisconsin headquarters and witnessing firsthand its extensive product testing and commitment to research and development, he became convinced of the brand's exceptional quality. Although today's trend favors fully integrated appliances concealed behind cabinetry panels, he still appreciates the architectural presence of a stainless-steel Sub-Zero refrigerator as a striking design element.

Lighting has become another defining feature of the modern kitchen. Advances in LED technology now allow designers to control color temperature while incorporating discreet silicone light strips routed into cabinet interiors, creating both beauty and functionality.

Entertaining spaces have also expanded beyond the kitchen itself. Newton Kitchen & Design frequently creates sophisticated home bars that balance elegance with everyday practicality. Outfitted with under-





counter refrigeration, specialized ice makers, and even emerging appliances such as cocktail glass chillers, these spaces serve guests beautifully while providing convenient access for children to juice boxes, fresh fruit, and snacks.

Whether designing a kitchen, bath or bar, Matta's mission remains the same: to translate each client's personal tastes and aspirations into spaces that feel distinctive, enduring and unmistakably their own.