

At Home with QMA

WINTER 2012

Photos Courtesy of Wood-Mode (www.wood-mode.com)

Kitchen Centric Trends

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www.QMAdesignbuild.com

TELEPHONE: 609-822-4949

FAX: 609-822-4429

Beach Homes: *All in the Family*

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Having a house at the beach is an ideal way for families to spend time together. In fact, for many **QMA Design+Build** clients, vacationing at the Jersey shore has been a tradition for years, sometimes even for generations. But while it's great to gather the extended family, it's even better to gather in a home that's been built for multi-generational living. Let's take a look at some design approaches that create space for everyone.

The multi-generational floor plan. At **QMA Design+Build**, we believe the best beach homes offer both large, open common spaces *and* "generational" areas.

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GIVE LIFE AT THE SHORE A *Lift*

Making the most of a shore lot often means building multiple levels. That's why you might want to include an elevator in your plans. Elevators are great today for ferrying luggage and groceries and if climbing stairs becomes an issue, they can make all the difference.

Even if you don't need an elevator immediately, **QMA Design+Build** can design your home so it's easy to add one down the road. For example, if you're looking ahead to using your shore property as your primary residence, we can design the layout so several closets line up floor to floor, one over the other. Then, years later, the closets can be converted into the perfect space for your elevator.

QMA is the winner of numerous regional and national awards including:

2007 Top 500 Remodelers

Remodeling BIG 50

NARI COTY



2006 Master Design AWARDS



Kitchen Centric Trends

Photo: Courtesy of Aristokraft (www.aristokraft.com)

Most everyone today is dreaming about a bigger kitchen. According to Brenda Bryan of the Research Institute for Cooking and Kitchen Intelligence (RICKI)*, three out of five homeowners want a larger kitchen. This is also true for new home buyers. Many are having to give up space for their family room/great room, since the average square footage of new homes is shrinking, but they are not willing to give up any space in the kitchen.

One popular way to accomplish a larger kitchen is through creating an open floor plan. Instead of separate dining and family rooms, these spaces integrate seamlessly with the kitchen and form one large casual space. In remodeling projects, this usually requires extending the kitchen into an existing dining room and/or family room.

Other kitchen trends Bryan discussed are:

STORAGE

1. The desire for larger kitchens is not just about enjoying the feeling of spaciousness, rather the need for storage is one of the biggest issues in today's kitchen.
2. Homeowners identified a walk-in pantry as one of the most important items on their list of must-have's. Depending on the size of the walk-in pantry, it can also serve as a place to complete prep work, and to hide clutter from view when company arrives.

CENTRAL ISLAND

1. Islands are another "must-have." They are becoming more important to enhance storage, utility and esthetics in the kitchen.
2. Homeowners want their island countertop to be unique and different from the rest of the countertops.
3. They prefer multi-level islands that include a sink and faucet.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

1. Adequate kitchen ventilation is important to remove moisture that may result in mold and mildew.
2. People are taking daily medicines and vitamin supplements in the kitchen and are therefore requesting locking cabinets installed at an easily accessible height.

TECHNOLOGY

1. Homeowners are wanting docking stations for their smart phones and stands for their tablets. Mobile devices are often used during the cooking process to locate a recipe online from sites such as foodnetwork.com or allrecipes.com.
2. Many people enjoy listening to music when they cook, and therefore request wireless speakers for their mobile devices.

STYLE AND FINISHES

1. Stainless steel finish on appliances is still #1, but a black finish is desired by Gen-Y buyers.
2. French door refrigerators are very popular.

3. Painted finishes on cabinets are in style, and classic white is big once again.
4. Polished chrome finish is more important than brushed chrome for plumbing fixtures.
5. Cabinet styles emphasize sleek, clean lines.

APPLIANCES

1. Induction cooktops are grabbing an ever larger share of the market.
2. Steam cooking is growing in popularity.

INNOVATIONS THAT ARE ON THE MOVE TO MAINSTREAM

1. Ovens that greatly reduce standard cook time.
2. Faucets that include a built-in water filter.
3. Microwaves that can read and set cook time.
4. TVs that are built into the wall or into an appliance.
5. Technology that turns an appliance on and off.

PREDICTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

1. More intuitive kitchens that are integrated with technology.
2. The kitchen will not only be functional, it will be accessible.
3. The kitchen will move to the center of the home with the other rooms arranged as spokes around the hub.

* This is a summary of the *Kitchen Trends* presentation given at KBIS 2012.

What's in STORE

Are you envisioning a simple and serene design for your remodeled master bath? You wish for a calm environment where you can relax and rejuvenate. One of the challenges facing you is how you will keep that beautiful spa bathroom free from clutter. Clutter is distracting and causes anxiety when we can't find the things we need. Yet the number of activities that normally take place in the relatively small space of a bathroom make it difficult to find places to store everything—unless you plan ahead.

First of all, it is helpful to divide all your bathroom activities into general categories such as shower/bathe, groom, watch TV, exercise, read, take medications, clean, etc. Then consider the kinds of items you need for each category. For showering/bathing you may need bath towels, shampoo, shower gel, wash cloths, and body scrubbers.

Your bathroom layout should take into consideration *where* in your bathroom you will be performing each of the activities you listed and then provide a *nearby location* where the individual necessities may be stored. For example, a niche built into the wall of your shower provides a convenient spot to store the products you use when showering. Another handy location is under a built-in shower seat.

Bath towels require separate storage places for when they are clean, when they are damp, and when they are ready to be laundered. Towel hooks make it possible to hang towels in

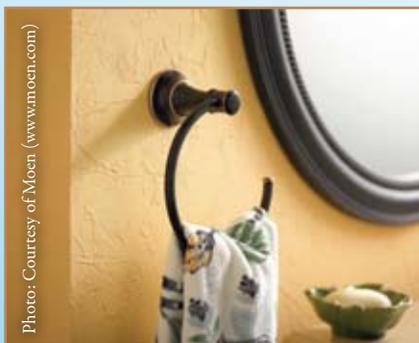


Photo: Courtesy of Moen (www.moen.com)

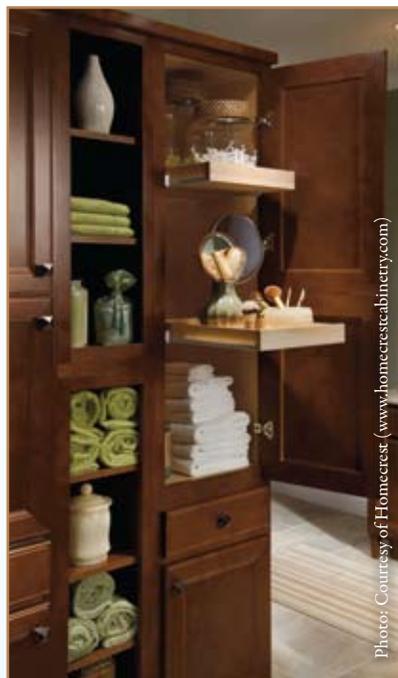


Photo: Courtesy of Homecrest (www.homecrestcabinetry.com)

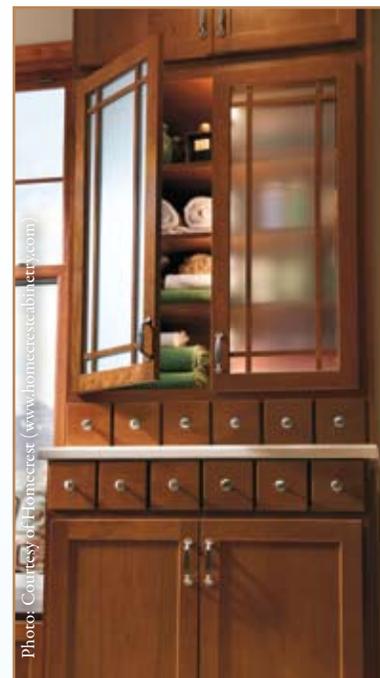


Photo: Courtesy of Homecrest (www.homecrestcabinetry.com)

narrow spaces where a towel bar will not fit. If you don't have a laundry chute, include a built-in hamper.

Tall, narrow cabinets offer generous storage in a smaller footprint. Include kitchen-style organizational elements, like pull-out shelves, to make your items more accessible. Apothecary drawers are perfect for storing perfumes and other cosmetics away from the damaging effects of sunlight. Glass fronts on cabinets reflect light—providing an open, airy look—but be sure to choose opaque glass if you want to conceal clutter. Keep in mind that shelves, cubbies and cabinets that are recessed into the wall will take up even less room than wall-hung or free-standing storage pieces.

As you plan, keep ergonomics in mind: designate the drawers and shelves installed between your head and waist height for items you use on a daily basis. Reserve the upper and lower shelves for light weight and/or infrequently used supplies.

STAINLESS COPPER

This luxurious kitchen sink by ROHL, handcrafted in Italy, won the Best of Kitchen award at the 2012 Kitchen and Bath Industry Show (KBIS). It sports a beautiful gleaming finish that is a unique copper treatment on stainless steel. Unlike a typical copper sink, the Stainless Copper finish will not oxidize or patina and the sink resists heat up to 500° F. The sink also features contemporary zero edge side walls with a rounded easy-to-clean bottom edge 9 mm radius. The steel is commercial grade 16 gauge, and is fully undercoated using sound deadening technology to reduce splash-back sound.



Photo: Courtesy of KOHL (www.rohlhome.com)

To care for the Stainless Copper finish, wash with water and dish soap and then thoroughly rinse and dry. Avoid prolonged contact with tomatoes, salty liquids, milk, coffee and cola. Use a sink grid to prevent scratching.

Beach Homes:
All in the Family

Give Life at the Shore a Lift

What's in Store?

Kitchen Centric Trends

QMA

QMA Design+Build, LLC

5000 Boardwalk, Suite 2

Design+Build

Ventnor, NJ 08406

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Beach Homes: *All in the Family*



From beach house to year-round home. Many QMA Design+Build clients eventually plan to make their shore home their primary residence. With this in mind, we like to include subtle “universal design” elements – such as wider doors and hallways – that make the home feel more spacious today while keeping it easier to navigate in years to come.

Multi-level. Multi-functional. Multi-generational. When you remodel with these principles in mind, you create a house that can become “home base” for great shore vacations *and* retirement living that includes plenty of visits from friends and family.

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For example, our floor plans might include a den near the smaller bedrooms so kids can play video games without disturbing adults who want to linger and chat over a great meal.

More floor space on a small lot. Most shore homes in our area are built on relatively small lots. One solution is to build multiple stories. Some of the homes we build or remodel, for example, are on lots where the house can be more than two stories tall so we can add a third story and allocate the living space so it works perfectly for just the homeowner or a house full of relatives. Here are two examples:

The first is a traditional layout where the main floor features a spacious open

layout for a great room (living area, dining area and kitchen). Even within a small footprint, it's possible to design a multi-functional area that can easily accommodate 20 people. If space permits the first floor might also include a larger guest room or office. The second floor might be dedicated to a large master suite and the primary bedrooms. The third floor might feature smaller guest rooms or even a dormitory-style bedroom with bunk beds for the grandkids.

A different three-story design places the main living area up on the second floor. This is usually done to take advantage of a view not available from the ground floor. It also creates a sound buffer between guest rooms (usually on the first floor) and the private third-floor master suite.

