

# LUXE Kitchens

4 instant upgrades you can do yourself for **LESS THAN \$300.**

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PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF LUXE HOME

**MAKE THE KITCHEN YOUR HOME'S NEW CENTRAL LIVING SPACE** with the right materials and finishes—and these smart design tips from Kate Floherty, vice president of LuxeHome, a collection of luxury kitchen and bath boutiques in Chicago.



VERY WHITE CABINETS with clean lines are always in style.

THE ARCTIC WHITE PINE FINISH CABINETS from Snaidero's Orange line and the glass-matte-finish center island countertop are sleek and minimalist.

# 4 TRANSFORMATIONS FOR YOUR BUDGET

## 1. Paint:

"The easiest way to completely give your kitchen a facelift is to pick out a great color," says Kate. The process can seem scary to

some do-it-yourselfers who fear choosing the wrong color, but most paint companies provide color decks to guide you to the right hue.

Kate recommends Farrow & Ball, which offers some of the finest paints in the world. Their price may seem expensive up front, but a little goes a long way. Rather than offering hundreds of variations of, say, white, Farrow & Ball limits the range to a few of the best shades of cream or white, making it easier for you pick your perfect hue. "That helps you not make a mistake," she adds.

**The bang for your buck?** 1 gallon of a semi-gloss or low-sheen, water-based paint can cost you as little as \$15.

Base your material selections on what will work best for you and your family. Don't forget to consider which materials will bring a good return on your investment should you sell your house in the future. Here are four ideas for you to give your kitchen a designer look with just a few affordable flourishes.

THE WALL PANELS hold sleek adjustable shelves for stylish storage, while a horizontal metal hand disguises the electric outlets.

POGGENPOHL'S +ARTESIO WALNUT VENEER KITCHEN and seating area open up the kitchen and living areas, uniting them as one casual, stylish space.

## 2. Tile:

If your kitchen is in dire need of a quick cosmetic touch-up, tile is a start. "You can totally change the look of your kitchen with tile," says Kate.

Creating a tile backsplash is one way to add an impactful design element to your kitchen. If you're handy, you can save yourself on the installment costs. "It's not as hard [to install] as flooring," says Kate. "The distance between the countertop and cabinets is only two feet. If you can do it yourself, you can easily do it for \$300 or less with beautiful, high-design, high-quality tile."

Today's tile selection is endless, which means you get the exact material that works best for your kitchen style. "There are so many beautiful things," says Kate. "Glasses continue to be popular. We have tiles made out of stingray, semi-precious stones, concrete." She does, however, advise against 1-inch glass mosaic tiles, which she believes are on their way out of favor. A newer idea: Look for different patterns of glass mosaics.

A hot tile trend that Kate says is catching on among chic interior designers includes applying 12-inch square Moroccan hand-painted concrete tiles with unique, graphic designs to walls as a backsplash. "It's almost like wallpaper," she says. "We've seen brighter colors, larger prints in fashion—and fashion design influences kitchen and bath design." If you love certain design motifs and concepts in fashion, they can extend to the kitchen, too.

**The bang for your buck?** You can purchase 12 x 12 stone wall tile for as little as \$12 per square foot.





AMPLE  
DISHING IN  
THE SPACE is just  
as much a design  
feature as it is  
functional.

THE  
MAPLE ISLAND  
CABINERY AND  
RUSTIC TILE FLOORING  
add warmth and depth to  
this kitchen's mostly  
bright white  
background.

WHILE  
WHITE KITCHENS  
REMAIN POPULAR  
because they're both  
classic and modern, wood  
tones are also making  
a comeback.

### 3. Hardware:

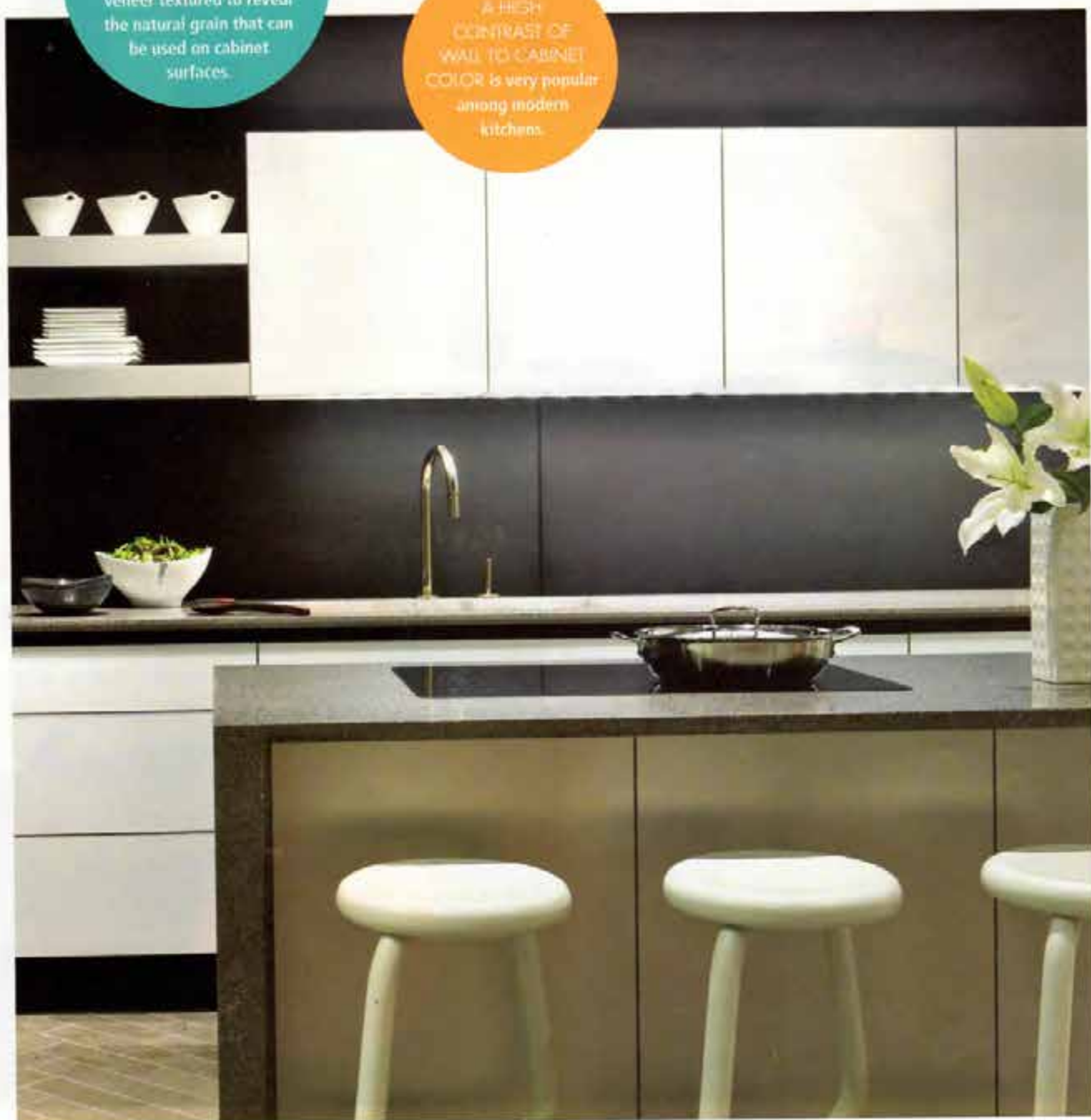
Swapping out your outdated hardware is a simple and inexpensive

makeover tip, and there are a great number of finishes to choose from today, from the antique look to highly polished metal. "Be sure whatever you choose goes with your plumbing and light fixtures, and contrasts with the cabinets," says Kate. If you have polished hardware, for example, pick a polished faucet. "It doesn't have to be matchymatchy, but make sure that it coordinates."

**The bang for your buck?** A single, 3-inch cabinet drawer pull can set you back a mere \$2.

THE CHARCOAL WALL PANELS are made from a new surface material called "Strata," a thick wood veneer textured to reveal the natural grain that can be used on cabinet surfaces.

A HIGH CONTRAST OF WALL TO CABINET COLOR is very popular among modern kitchens.





THE GAMA DÉCOR CABINETRY FROM PORCELANOSA is a traditional style juxtaposed with more modern hardware and a range hood above.

WHEN CABINETRY, countertops and hardware contrast in color and surface, beauty is the result.

PORCELAIN FLOORING, along with a mosaic marble tile backsplash, add warmth and romance.



TODAY'S  
TRADITIONAL  
KITCHENS can include  
modern finishes for an  
eclectic look.



THIS KITCHEN'S BASKET WEAVE-TILE BACKSPASH is a fitting choice for the traditional Christopher Peacock cabinets from the Peacock Signature Collection.

THE METAL SUBWAY-STYLE TILES behind the range and the black walnut butcher block island give a modern touch.

## [Setting the Stage]

For a show-stopping kitchen, incorporate the following extra touches in your redesign.

Kitchens aren't just for cooking anymore—they're now multipurpose entertainment spaces, and they have to look and work great. These modern kitchen concepts put the "fun" in "functional" and take the concept of an eat-in kitchen to a whole new level.

- **LET THERE BE LIGHTING.** "Lighting is so critical," says Kate. You can use it not only to provide enough light to work in your kitchen, but also to accent certain details. Recessed, under- and upper-cabinet lighting does just that, but you can also use dimmers to adjust the lighting to the amount you need. "You want things to be bright, but not always. You can dim all of them so it can be soothing to the eye and it's like a new kitchen." Hang pendants above islands and peninsulas to complete your look, but also light up the space for eating, cooking, doing homework and more.
- **BRING ON THE ENTERTAINMENT.** Because the kitchen is the new living space, it's become a major entertaining area, as well. Be sure to include a TV, stereo, even an under-cabinet accessory that holds an iPad in addition to plenty of seating room. "Let's face it, we are all hanging out in our kitchen," says Kate. These allow you to cook, catch up on your favorite TV shows, check your email, listen to music and help out with homework all in one setting.
- **ORGANIZE IT.** For the best-looking kitchen possible, don't overlook the most obvious and inexpensive design element—keeping it clean and uncluttered. Clear your counters and shelves of anything unnecessary and tuck away whatever you can. Kate says you can hide appliances you don't use every day in a small hutch or cabinet specifically for those dust-collecting mixers and coffeemakers. "That way," as Kate says, "You're ready to entertain at any moment and you feel good being there," says Kate.

For more details on LuxeHome, please visit [luxehome.com](http://luxehome.com).



## 4. Cabinetry:

"If your cabinets aren't the quality they should be, you might have to rip everything apart and start over," says Kate. But here's the real question: Do you need plastic surgery or just new makeup? Cabinets are a major part of your kitchen's overall appearance, and quality is just as important as their color, finish and style. Minor additions like an island or peninsula can bring multifunctionality to your kitchen space, while also making it feel welcoming.

For a luxury custom kitchen without the price tag, you can find stylish products that are more affordable versions of higher-end ones. The

Brookhaven line of cabinets from WoodMode offers a cabinet with a laminated interior instead of all solid wood, giving you the same look and function, at a lower cost. These creative options accommodate all buyers, so smaller budgets can afford luxe styles for less. "They want people to have beautiful kitchens," says Kate. With a few key touches, your kitchen can sparkle.

**The bang for your buck?** If all your kitchen needs is "new makeup," give it a fresh centerpiece by replacing your island's doors, drawers and sides with a new stain and veneer for \$100-200 per single cabinet.

See Shopping Guide, page 96.



THE SLEEK WALL CABINET BY de Giulio kitchen design has a polished stainless steel frame, glass doors, custom-polished stainless steel pulls and ebonized walnut interiors with distressed German silver insert.

METAL FINISHES add a utilitarian yet glamorous edge.

THE STAINLESS STEEL CENTER ISLAND is topped with a polished Calcutta Gold marble top, while the custom gold textured paint contrasts the flat surfaces.