

Machines for Living

Appliances are losing the industrial look in favor of luxurious finishes and sleeker lines—with no sacrifice in performance. *by Joe Harper*

“DESIGNING A KITCHEN is like putting on a suit,” says New York-based architect Stephanie Goto. “It’s the tailoring that makes a difference.” Like many designers, Goto—who designs home kitchens for chefs such as Daniel Boulud—doesn’t want appliances to overpower the space. “I prefer things to almost disappear and only reappear when engaged,” she says. In the

past, designers sourced from restaurant kitchens because they had the most high-tech appliances. But most of these proved to be too clunky and industrial for home kitchens. These days companies are scaling down the size of their appliances but adding a sophisticated sheen (as well as the smartest technology) to make the kitchen the best looking room in the house.



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Add a Little Color

Gray stainless steel doesn't have to be the go-to. Last year **True Residential** debuted antique-white and matte- and gloss-black finishes, all available with copper, brass, or chrome hardware, on its range of refrigerators (*left; finishes from \$1,000, hardware from \$400; true-residential.com*). This spring the brand's mix-and-match options will expand, with matte-white and cobalt-blue finishes as well as gold and pewter hardware. The new black stainless steel for **Bosch's** kitchen line (*bosch-home.com*) protects against fingerprints and scratches. **Miele** introduced a cool Graphite Grey color option (*miele.com*), while **Dacor** added horizontal hairlines, which give texture to the black stainless-steel models in its Modernist collection (*dacor.com*).

▼ **Divide and Conquer**

The freezer doesn't always need to be right next to the refrigerator. **GE's Monogram, Liebherr, Perlick, and Bosch** (below; \$3,800; bosch-home.com) have all introduced column coolers—tall refrigerators and freezers that can be installed separately. The models from both **Monogram** (from \$6,200; monogram.com) and **Liebherr** (from \$9,500; liebherr.com) are appealing on the inside too, with lighting that dims during midnight snack runs. **Perlick**, known for its under-the-counter coolers, now has columns (from \$6,700; perlick.com) that go nicely with its first set of ranges and cooktops to provide a uniform look.



^ **Hold the Door**

A wall oven's pull-down door can be awkward when you're reaching for hot food. **Thermador's Professional Series** (thermador.com) will remedy this with its upcoming side-open door option, while **Monogram's Professional Series** (above; from \$4,700; monogram.com) features a French-door version. This streamlined look is also available for bottom freezers. Instead of pullout drawers, **Dacor's Four-Door FreshZone Plus** (from \$12,000; dacor.com) and **LG Signature** (\$7,000; lg.com) offer French doors, which make the appliance flush with the cabinetry.

INTELLIGENT DESIGN

Kitchen appliances aren't just sleeker—they're smarter. **Signature Kitchen Suite** ovens (from \$3,000; signaturekitchensuite.com) can be preheated remotely, and **Samsung's Family Hub 3.0 Refrigerator** (below; \$7,000; samsung.com) is integrated with the company's smart products. So you can do everything from food shopping to checking email.

