

Tropic

LAUDERDALE LIVING & DESIGN

MARCH, 2012



Kitchen Magic



**Frigidaire's
Kitchen of The Future
from GM's Motorama
of 1956 held at the
Waldorf Astoria hotel
in New York City.**

Deconstructing The Modern Kitchen

Whatever happened to that super-mod kitchen of tomorrow we were promised decades ago? We were assured built-in fabulosity on a grand scale and a space-age efficiency so great that creating dinner would become a show.

Well, creating dinner *has* become a show, and those appliances have been creeping into our kitchens year after year, little by little. A microwave here, a dish drawer there... But instead of it looking like an insecticide testing lab powered remotely by an app on your iPhone, the kitchen of today is still very real, very warm. Think: Machine For Living, but with a softer edge.

We found four new kitchens - all with a different vibe - that reach into the future, while keeping a firm grip on the present. Join us for a good look inside.





Fantasy Island

A thick slab of **quartz** becomes the center of family life in this South Florida home.

The island kitchen has become ubiquitous for a reason – it works. Once thought of as a sort of fanciful flourish, the island has wedged its way solidly into the vocabulary of the contemporary kitchen. In this family kitchen, the island serves as a feeding center more often than the dining table. Because of the kitchen's airy, inviting design, it's become the center of family life.

Built by the Balfoort Companies, a long island marks the center of the space, made more volumetric with a raised roofline and clerestory windows. Materials were selected both for their beauty and their ability to hold up to full-time family usage. Counters of natural quartz can withstand just about anything. Floors are easy-to-care-for terrazzo and the custom cabinetry is finished with a highly lacquered zebrawood, bringing in-credible warmth to the entire space.

Professional-duty appliances like the six-burner plus griddle Thermador range and the extra deep sink tend to pay for themselves over time when you have no less than five family members at a time to cook for or clean up after. The adult members of the family and their friends have not been overlooked here, however, as there is a convenient under-cabinet wine cooler at the end of the space.

During the day, lighting is no issue as natural light flows throughout the space. At night, the kitchen is lit by four pendant fixtures that reflect light off the white surface of the island and this is augmented by halogen lighting over the prep surfaces that flank the range.

Perhaps one of the nicest features about the space and indeed a splurge is the long backsplash, covered from counter to soffit in a tile called Oval from the Dimensional Collection by Heath Ceramics. The deep, raking light from the recessed halogen fixtures enhances the sculptural quality of the tile.

Balfoort mixed all of today's best amenities with a highly functional layout and exhilarating design and the end result was a kitchen we'd never want to leave.



As impervious to scratches as granite, **Stellar Snow** by Silestone is made with 35% recycled glass. Available through Clad Tile & Stone



While Sub-Zero is considered top-of-the-line for wine storage units, U-Line makes very similar units at a lower price point. At Florida Builder Appliances in Pompano Beach.