



# WHAT'S COOKING IN THE KITCHEN

BEAUTIFUL HOMES BY ROMANZA INTERIOR DESIGN

THE MANDEVILLE KITCHEN

Whether creating an intimate candlelit dinner for two, or a five-course gourmet-inspired menu for lavish parties, the kitchen is often the heart of the home.

The process for designing a custom kitchen is often a personal journey, and one Melissa Allen with Romanza Interior Design is most familiar with. An award-winning senior interior designer, Allen has been creating unique spaces and custom designs for more than 25 years.

From the initial consultation to defining the design concept, Allen and the team at Romanza work closely to ask the right questions, develop a relationship with their clients to understand the vision and set the foundation to ensure the home captures the essence of its residents.

“When it comes to the kitchen, function and design are paramount,” said Allen. “These days, homeowners are veering away from isolated kitchens to more open, and multifunctional spaces that allow them to carry on a conversation with guests while preparing a meal, or utilize the island as a working space. The kitchen, dining and living



THE CAMBERDALE KITCHEN

spaces are becoming more unified to align with their more active lifestyle; homeowners are also requesting more light, airy and streamlined aesthetics.”

Keeping in line with the market’s desire for connectivity



THE SONOMA KITCHEN

among living spaces, the recently-completed Watlington model near downtown Fifth Avenue and Third Street South and designed by the Romanza team, features clean lines in the kitchen that blends seamlessly with the adjoining great room. The home, recently recognized with a Sand Dollar Award from the Collier Building Industry Association for Best Kitchen, features an open and efficient design, making staging large dinner parties a breeze. A conveniently located butler's pantry provides ample space for stocking essentials.

Appliances in the Watlington include a dual-fuel range, steam oven, Sub-Zero refrigerator, microwave drawer and refrigerated drawers. "Appliances are key to the design of the kitchen – we're seeing more requests for induction cooktops, steam and convection ovens and statement-making hoods," added Allen.

Earlier this year, the Romanza Interior Design team made the annual pilgrimage to their industry's mecca – High Point Market in North Carolina – to track the trends and spot the styles that are on the cutting edge of home design.

"Tradition has returned, but with cleaner lines and a more classic feel," said Allen. One home recently completed by Allen showcases a transitional style that blends classic and modern elements in the kitchen. The home features rich-stained and white painted rift-cut oak veneer cabinetry, white cloud quartz countertops with a waterfall edge, and a mosaic backsplash with a crystal cave shell finish.

"An important part of our profession is forecasting trends and staying ahead of the curve so we're able to offer clients the most up-to-date selections," noted Allen. "Many of the design elements we saw at High Point this spring are already being incorporated into the homes we design."

What else is brewing in the kitchen? Color and accessories are being kept to a minimum for a streamlined, clean look. Lighting is taking a bigger role in the kitchen design, from sleek backlit floating drywall ceiling detail to a trio of modern pendant lamps in brushed nickel that coordinate with cabinet pulls.

"We're also seeing a mix of time-worn textures and engineered woods to white and high-gloss lacquer walnut cabinetry that creates a contemporary look," said Allen.

At the end of the day, it comes down to what feels right – scale, balance and proportion.

To learn more about incorporating the latest kitchen designs into your home this season, call 239.596.1613 or visit [www.Romanza.com](http://www.Romanza.com).