

Kitchen Designs

"We are seeing lots of cabinetry that looks like furniture because the kitchen is no longer segregated to one area of the house"



Dark cabinetry with minimal hardware helps the kitchen blend with other rooms in the house

Heathwood Homes, Bayview Hill model

By Georgie Binks —

Kitchen designs in 2003 are a bit of a dichotomy: They are definitely more visible as builders design cooking areas that open into family rooms, but designers are doing everything

they can to make the room blend with the rest of the house.

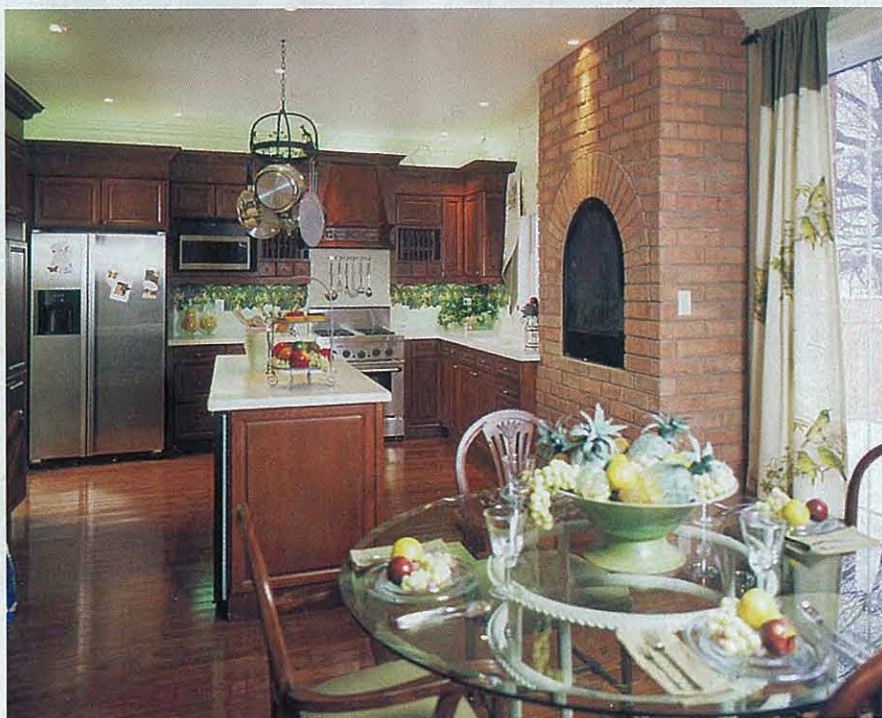
Once relegated to a corner of the house, kitchens now are a focal point of the house as dinner guests share wine and jokes while hosts put the finishing touches on the bouillabaisse. New kitchen and

appliance designs, storage units and the use of natural materials may also make guests feel more like they are cozying up in the living room than in the kitchen.

"We do extended islands, extended bars and peninsulas, because the back of the house is a family



Kitchen islands enable the cook to prepare meals while still being able to entertain



Larger kitchens can accommodate such unique features as fireplaces. Wood floors are gaining in popularity in kitchens as well

Tribute Communities

room/great room/kitchen and they are open to one another. It's become more of a gathering place," says Bob Finnigan, senior vice-president of operations for housing at Heathwood Homes. One material change he cites is the move away from arborite and laminates: "Granites and composites such as Corian are the new thing. We used to do a lot of laminate material, but the cabinets today have wooden doors." Tara Fingold, a Toronto interior decorator, agrees: "We are seeing lots of cabinetry that looks like furniture because it's no longer segregated to one area of the house."

continued on page 22