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COLOR CONTINUES

While neutrals in the white/cream and tan/brown hues often serve as a foundation, color isn't overlooked, with homeowners expressing continued interest in blues and greens. Gray has some staying power yet, too. However, a commonality amongst them is that they are trending towards warmer undertones.

"We've seen a shift from cooler grays to warmer grays, and as greens and blues continue to increase in popularity for kitchen cabinets, the nuanced undertones of a color like Aegean Teal offer a fresh alternative," says Magno. "Generally speaking, we are seeing an overall softened look that is complemented by matte walls that are especially evident when mid-tone deeper colors are used. We're also seeing a shift toward warmer colors that work beautifully with wood tones and materials that have a warmer cast."

The realm of blue runs the gamut from light to dark and includes hues with green undertones. Woodman notes that lighter shades, those reminiscent of the sky, add a breath of fresh air to the earthiness of greens. "Interestingly enough, they look stunning together," he says. "Nature combines them outside, so why can't we combine them inside."

Jennifer Grey, design/color specialist, Jennifer Grey Interiors, in Thousand Oaks, CA, sees blue – in particular hues with slate and smoky tones or rich, deep jewel tones, as well as navy – becoming popular. "White is a classic color with a lot of staying power with my clients," she says. "However, blue, without a doubt, is trending because it can add some drama to a space, particularly on a large island or even a double island that is a focal point and anchor for a classic, white kitchen. My clients like color on an island because it can punctuate a space without being a huge commitment."

Morris thinks of navy as a neutral that plays well with other colors while offering more personality than white or gray. "I go back to blue over and over again, with no regrets or hesitations," she says.



Photos: Petrus Perfect House

Although Chad Esslinger has noticed charcoal and black tones beginning to emerge, navy is still a go-to color. In this kitchen, he contrasted the white perimeter cabinetry with the island painted in Benjamin Moore's Wescott Navy.

Some of Chad Esslinger's clients are making more bold choices for design elements such as paint color, pattern, wallpaper, etc. In this kitchen, his clients chose to contrast their Benjamin Moore Colorado Gray cabinetry with bright red accents, including the refrigerator and island stools.

