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The Bold New World of COUNTERTOPS

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When remodeling a kitchen or bath, choosing a countertop used to be as easy as deciding which neutral color to choose. As 2011 and a new decade begins, the design world is seeing a shift to more color. After more than a decade of beige, bone and biscuit, we are captivated by turquoise, persimmon, emerald green and cobalt blues.

While thinking about remodeling or redecorating your kitchen or bath, choosing a more exciting countertop is a simple, one-step solution to updating and enlivening your home space, as well as increasing the value of your home. With the ever growing trend toward eco-friendly materials, you can be unique, stylish and environmentally friendly with one of the following choices.

Lava Stone

Made from enameling natural volcanic rock at 1,000 degrees, this countertop material comes in a variety of colors and is even suitable for outdoors as it can withstand freezing and thawing.



Recycled glass countertop by Vetrazzo

Quartz

Made from one of nature's hardest materials, natural quartz surfaces such as Silestone and Cambria are man-made slabs created under great pressure and polished to high-shine gloss. Vibrant colors such as Magenta Energy, Pink Love and Blue Enjoy add excitement and pizzazz to any space and unlike natural stone, are more consistent with virtually no veins or surface imperfections.

Recycled Scrap Metal

Made from aluminum scraps, these countertops feature eye-popping metallic flecks as well as rich color backgrounds including Plum, Paprika and Root Beer. This countertop is extremely strong and durable and can be polished to your preferred level of shine.



Glazed volcanic lava stone by Pyrolave

Solid Glass

Glass countertops today come in a variety of colors, both solid and patterned, and even unusual textures such as bubbled designs to mimic a bubbling stream. It's surprisingly sturdy and can be customized with color to create a truly one-of-a-kind showpiece.

Recycled Glass

Strong like granite and heat resistant like stone, recycled glass countertops such as those from Vetrazzo, are super chic and eco friendly since over 85 percent of the glass is recycled from windows, traffic lights, stained glass and beer bottles.

Recycled Paper

Although its color choices are a bit more understated (such as Chocolate, Gunmetal and Cabernet) recycled paper countertops, such as those from Richlite and Paper Stone, are a unique alternative for those who want a more eco-friendly countertop with high stain resistance and a non-porous surface.



Quartz countertop by Cambria

Countertops have an immense impact in a living space. With such a wide assortment available today you should consider the many options before deciding which one, or more, is best suited to your needs. Quality countertops will drastically improve the appearance and function of the kitchen or bath as well as influence the resale value of your home. **CS**

Would you like to have your design dilemma considered for an upcoming issue? Just send an e-mail to designerguy@haskellinteriors.com.

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All Countertops pictured are available at Haskell Interiors.