

# THE CLASSIC/WHITE KITCHEN

*Everyone seems to be rediscovering it, and it can be tailored to fit within any budget or style. Here, Haskell Matheny, ASID, CAPS, shares his favorite things about a classic white kitchen and offers some tips for designing one yourself.*

## *Four Reasons to Love It*

*IT BRIGHTENS THE SPACE.* A white kitchen will instantly brighten and expand the look of your room, especially if you already have darker countertops or stained cabinetry. White creates the impression of openness and airiness and can make your space seem happier and more alive.

*IT SETS OFF YOUR COLLECTION.* Everything looks great against white – even items placed on countertops can take on a different look. If your collection has color, a white backdrop will make it ‘pop’ and ensure it gets noticed as the only color in the room.

*YOU CAN CHANGE IT UP.* White offers a blank canvas on which to express yourself and the latest color trends. If you currently want to use a red accent color in your fabrics and accents, go right ahead! In a few years, you can swap those fabrics and accessories out for blue ones for a whole new look.

*IT BLENDS SEAMLESSLY.* Whether you are remodeling or designing a new home, starting with a white kitchen will allow you the most flexibility when it comes to choosing colors and materials for the adjoining spaces. Everything goes with white!

## *What to Know When Designing One*

*YOUR HARDWARE WILL STAND OUT.* Against white cabinetry, the hardware you choose will really make a statement. Think carefully about the shape and the color. How will 50 or 60 of them look together?

*THE ISLAND CAN OFFER CONTRAST.* Using an accent color or darker stain for the island is a great way to complement all-white cabinetry. A black island is classic, but walnut and cherry stains are also wonderful and give the room some visual warmth. If you’re looking for the right color, think about playing off your dishes or an accent color used in an adjoining room. Keep to a color that you have loved for years, and then tie in a few new accent pieces or fabrics to complete the look.



### *PATTERN & TEXTURE ARE KEY.*

An all-white kitchen can get boring fast. Using pattern and texture is the way to keep your eye interested and give the room personality.

#### **For texture, consider:**

- wood beams in the ceiling
- a hammered metal hood
- a hand-scraped wood floor

#### **For pattern, consider:**

- mullion doors with patterned glass
- an interesting wallpaper, fabric, or tile
- a patterned backsplash

Just remember: without color, you rely on other design elements (like pattern and texture) to make the room memorable.

### *WHITE WILL SHOW MORE DIRT.*

While white is wonderful, the reality is that it will reveal more of life's little mishaps. You can put the odds in your favor by choosing non-white flooring, knobs rather than pulls, and using a patterned white or darker countertop material. Also, consider a stain or darker color for your island, as islands tend to get scuffed more frequently. **CS**

Haskell Matheny, ASID, CAPS is the owner and principal designer of Haskell Interiors, located in historic downtown Cleveland, Tenn. Visit online at [haskellinteriors.com](http://haskellinteriors.com).