A certified kitchen fanatic, I've plied the aisles of the Kitchen & Bath Industry Show with the scrutiny of a fashion editor eyeing the Paris runways.

There's a thrill in uncovering the latest innovations. A preview of the 2017 event, coming to Orlando January 10 to 12, promises such finds as Móz Designs' edgy backsplash panels made from recycled aluminum and Faber's Oceana ceiling hood that retracts into a minimalist chandelier.

My kitchen obsession stems from what I see as an interesting dichotomy. On one hand, modern kitchens epitomize the height of design and technology, while on the other they meet our most basic needs for sustenance and survival. The measure of a kitchen's success rests not only on how well it functions and how beautiful it looks, but also on how well it fosters the age-old act of breaking bread with family and friends.

The projects we cover in "Dream Kitchens" on page 57 check these boxes and then some.

Jonas Carnemark of Carnemark design + build, who masterminded one of them, contends that kitchens are also about discovery. As a boy, he learned to cook dishes from around the globe when his father invited World Bank colleagues to dinner. "The kitchen has such great gravity to bring people together," he says. Today, Carnemark helps clients make discoveries of their own, "from the textures and colors of standard finishes to all the new stuff on the market."

On page 52, we visit the homes of celebrated Washington chefs Kwame Onwuachi of The Shaw Bijou and Jamie Leeds of Hank's Oyster Bar. A far cry from the bustling restaurant line, their personal kitchens revolve around simplicity and connectedness. "It's really about spending time with people I love," Onwuachi reflects. "To give people happiness, excitement and nourishment is selfless to me. Being in a beautiful kitchen makes the act that much more enjoyable."

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Top and inset: At home with Kwame Onwuachi, chef at The Shaw Bijou, I enjoy a close encounter with his puppy, Clove. Above: Designer Jonas Carnemark and I peruse the latest in cabinetry at KONST SieMatic in Bethesda.

ANNUAL KITCHEN ISSUE









dream kitchens



Five innovative projects turn up the heat with vision, functionality and creative style

BY JULIE SANDERS

5 DREAM KITCHENS





details...

Cabinetry: Konst SieMatic. Countertops: Wild Chianti granite. Backsplash: Back-painted glass. Appliances: Wolf, Miele. Sink: Franke. Faucet: Axor Starck through Hansgrohe. Pendant: Studio Italia Design.

open plan

Tired of their kitchen, which was closed off from both the dining room and the adjacent family room of their 1980s home in DC's Palisades neighborhood, a couple turned to Carnemark design + build for help. "They wanted to open up the space and make it sleek, with nice flow to the other rooms," says principal Jonas Carnemark.

He and his team removed the wall between the family room and kitchen, replacing it with a flush beam in the ceiling to allow a seamless transition between the two spaces. The doorway from the kitchen to the dining room was centered on the wall and enlarged.

A distinctive slab of granite with swirls of green, gray and black first inspired the owners, who chose it for their countertops. They preferred a warm yet minimalist look, so Carnemark paired the granite with SieMatic cabinetry in a quartered-teak veneer, foregoing upper cabinetry for lower-level storage and an appliance wall that houses two ovens, a fridge and a pantry cupboard. A large window behind the sink was replaced by two smaller ones, positioned high to admit light without sacrificing privacy from the neighbors on that side of the house.

Instead of a traditional breakfast nook, Carnemark installed a smoked-oak bridge table, attached to the counter, as a casual dining area. Above it, a sleek pendant illuminates the room. A pop of purple frames the appliance wall and the niche into which the windows, cooktop and hood are positioned, adding interest and a touch of fun to the room.

Kitchen Design & Contracting: Jonas Carnemark, CKD, Carnemark design + build, Bethesda, Maryland. Photography: Anice Hoachlander.

