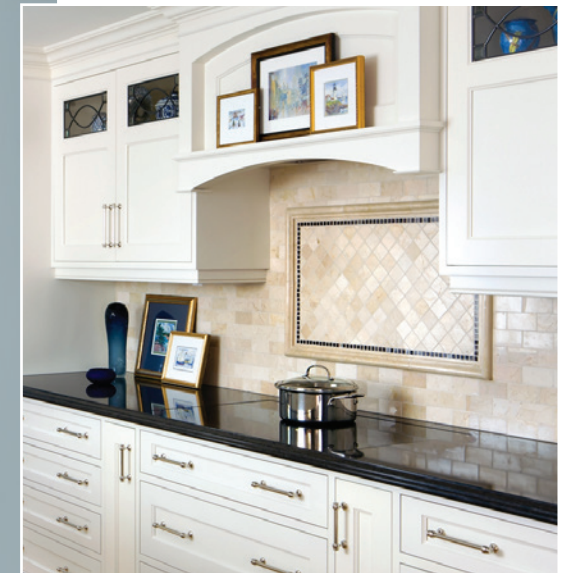


BACK SPLASH

FUNCTIONALITY, ART...or Both?

Art is meant to be seen and enjoyed throughout our homes, but we stop short of hanging our favourite pieces in the kitchen. The heart of the home can get messy and withstands fluctuating levels of heat and humidity, making it an unfriendly environment for an original oil painting. Yet with the right medium, any kitchen can become a gallery.

By Jane Lockhart



Grout not only holds your tiles together, it can make them pop. For example, if you are thinking of going bold with white tiles, dark grey grout will really make the white tiles stand out. Contrast is energy.

A hand-painted mural on tile is not a new idea; in fact, most ancient cultures have developed and manufactured their own unique styles and patterns for more than 4,000 years. When you think of hand-painted tile, do you automatically think of the fruit and vegetable motif of the '80s? Take time to visit a tile store and see what's new on the market, and if you don't see what you want, create it!

A custom drawn, single work in a motif of your choice is an original way to bring a new focal point into an unexpected place — even the kitchen.

Backsplash is meant to be functional, but play a little, and let it bring out the art lover in you! ■

Award winning designer, TV personality, author and spokesperson, Jane Lockhart is one of Canada's leading experts in the world of design and colour. Familiar to TV audiences for her show, Colour Confidential, and appearances on CTV's The Marilyn Denis Show and Moving The McGillivrays on HGTV, Jane is always an engaging personality. Her professional

interior design firm, Jane Lockhart Interior Design has focused on residential, commercial, hospitality and retail projects since 1997. In addition to her full slate of client projects, Jane has created two lines of furnishings, Jane By Jane Lockhart and Jane Lockhart Platinum.



Consider your new palette — the backsplash. The kitchen walls between counter and cabinetry is the perfect place for visual beauty and functionality to come together and elevate your kitchen's style. There are infinite design possibilities to incorporate pattern, colour and detail if you start with a resilient surface that will stand up to almost anything you can throw at it.

Consider tile from ceramic, porcelain, glass, stone, marble or even stainless steel. The most popular choice is ceramic tile because of its ease of cleaning the inevitable oil and grease splatters on a wall near the stovetop and food preparation area. However, any tile will automatically create interest, texture and heightened design. It's a versatile product that comes in all shapes, colours and sizes.

Just to add interest in a long expanse of wall, you can create an interesting white on white pattern with plain white subway tiles. This tile "plays well" with accessories, kitchen cabinetry, windows and appliances. It can be as simple as using the same tile, changing the direction and pattern or as intricate as tile plaques

with coordinating accent liner bars on the perimeter of the frame.

You can add height visually to your kitchen by carrying the pattern all the way up to the ceiling, giving your kitchen a European feel. With this style, you'll see more open shelves and less upper cabinetry, making the wall a major focal point.

A great way to add drama or a focal point is with reflective surfaces such as mirror. Traditional antique-mirrored tile with a beveled edge is an elegant choice. Stack them for a contemporary take.

Dark cabinetry set against a white kitchen creates contrast and is an effective method to bring energy to a dull space. The same thing can be said about the grout in a backsplash.

