

news

Cutting-edge cabinets and countertops



Like city centers in ancient Greece, the **Snaidero Acropolis**, top left, is designed to be the hub of the home. For inspiration, designer Paolo Pininfarina, famous for his work with Ferrari, looked to his drum set—the shape puts all kitchen “instruments” in easy reach of the chef. 877-762-4337.

Rutt Handcrafted Cabinetry can incorporate almost any request, such as the hidden towel racks in the Florentine kitchen, above. 800-220-7888. rutt1.com. Bored by run-of-the-mill wood, but left cold by stainless steel?

Bulthaup's bamboo line, left, brings an exotic look to cabinetry. bulthaup.com.

CONCRETE KNOWLEDGE

Q&A with designer Fu-Tung Cheng, coauthor of the surprise hit *Concrete Countertops*

Q: Why concrete?

A: It has an earthy quality that works in any style. It lends itself to sculpting—inlay a water trough outlined in mosaics, or imbed a stainless-steel trivet. You can be creative. People were tired of the usual suspects: Formica, marble, granite.

Q: Do you mean the concrete they use in sidewalks?

A: The product we use, Geocrete, is basically the same, but it's a finer grade that reduces shrinkage. It is very smooth, very sensuous. It feels like marble.

Q: Doesn't concrete stain easily?

A: I would never recommend it to the kind of people who freak if their car has a scratch. If you spill wine on it, you do need to wipe it up within an hour. But no one ever complains. That patina gives it character.

Q: Why a do-it-yourself kit?

A: There's no measuring, no hassle—this is the Betty Crocker mix of concrete countertops. [NeoMix kit, far right, from \$375. chengdesign.com.] —INGRID ABRAMOVITCH

