



High Teak (Salvarani).



THE REBIRTH OF TWO ROOMS: THE KITCHEN AND THE BATHROOM

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Interior designer Carlos Sancho takes a look at the latest trends in kitchen and bathroom design that have transformed these two rooms into symbols of well-being and luxury living.

Two once-forgotten rooms have been transformed into star features of today's home: the kitchen and the bathroom. Both owe their new starring role to changing habits.

The kitchen has once again become the heart of the home: a place for different members of the family to get together and help one another. Another factor that has been influential in bringing the kitchen to the fore is the new emphasis on cooking, prompting everybody to want to imitate the great *chefs*.

The bathroom, meanwhile, has become a kind of "private spa": a place for intimacy, relaxation, pleasure and the senses. This is what is known as "bathroom culture".

Thus the kitchen and the bathroom have both become synonymous with well-being and an enhanced quality of life.

Let's take a look at the latest trends in kitchen and bathroom design:

THE KITCHEN

The kitchen is an area of the house that is very open to innovations in decoration and design.

Today's avant-garde kitchen combines *spaciousness* with *functionality and simplicity*.



High Teak (Salvarani).



Xares MCP (Ebano).



Jaime Hayon (Arquitect).

The latest kitchens are based on contrasting features, such as straight rather sober-looking designs combined with a dash of color or contrasting materials.

By using wood, glass or stainless steel, the kitchen acquires an elegance all of its own. This could be defined as elegant simplicity, a minimalist approach with a certain luxury air.

Big manufacturers and well-known designers focus particularly on two basic elements: **high quality materials** and perfect design.

As regards trends in materials, woods like teak or ebony are in fashion, together with different oak finishes like natural oak, wengue-stained oak and ash-colored oak.

There has also been a **resurgence of color**, from red, orange and green to that classical duo, black and white.

THE BATHROOM

New trends in bathroom design are all aimed at fostering a sense of peace and well-being, with this room becoming a kind of personal sanctuary.

All the different components of a bathroom (from its tap fittings and sanitaryware to the bathroom furniture) seem to have been adapted to fit in with one of two trends that I see as prevailing in bathroom design today.

On the one hand, there is a **minimalist tendency**, based on straight lines, simplicity, purity and an absence of anything superfluous.



Quatre (Acquamoble).



Kuatro (Ramón Soler).



Lulu (Dornbracht).

On the other, there is what could be called a new baroque style, characterized by curved features, elegance and luxury, in what is almost a reinterpretation of classical forms with the bathroom becoming a luxury status symbol.

Heading the list of key features are baseless washbasins or top-mounted bowls on countertops made of fine quality materials like wood or marble.

Tap fittings play a starring role in all avant-garde bathrooms. Indeed this is one feature that has developed the most, both technically and in design terms.

