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Kitchens: How do you hue?

Stainless steel still reigns, but color is making a comeback.

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Color is making a comeback. / Viking range Corp / PRNEWSFOTO

Cooking should not be a chore, but rather a recreational activity. Since we spend so much time in the kitchen, we want this area to make a personal statement. And in this stainless steel era, what would make a statement better than some colorful appliances? Here's the latest in color trends for kitchens:

Stainless steel — still. For several years now, stainless steel appliances have reigned supreme because they're sleek and luxurious, with an elegance that gives any kitchen an upscale feel. "The stainless steel [look] has been around for a long time, and from what I'm seeing, it really has staying power," says Alena Capra of Alena Capra Designs in Fort Lauderdale.

Neutrals are nice. Homeowners who want to move away from stainless steel but still want to proceed with caution when it comes to color tend to gravitate toward black or white appliances. "People may not want to go too crazy with color because they fear they may tire of it," says Susan Serra, author of the blog *The Kitchen Designer*. "They want something that is long-lasting vs. something for personal expression, and that comes out in softer, neutral colors."

Slate is great. Slate appliances are metallic and warm, which allows them to blend in nicely with existing stainless steel appliances.

Retro colors are back. For the cook who just wants to have fun, more vibrant colors — like cobalt blues and avocado greens — are reminiscent of decades past and give a light feeling to the kitchen. They're

Written by **Kenya McCullum**

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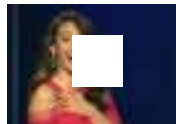
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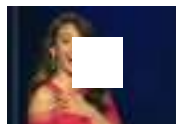
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