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Gary White's Top Product Picks



Look beneath the sophisticated kitchen designs of Gary White and you will find an award-winning designer with diverse skills, deep passions and, yes, some unique qualities. He loves to use dramatic lighting. Maybe that's because he holds a degree in theatrical science and began his career touring with national theater companies, mastering the art of lighting sets. He thoroughly understands what works in a kitchen. Credit that to being a gourmet chef and wine enthusiast. He's adept at creating a dynamic fusion of styles. His personal favorite is minimal modern Craftsman, but preference aside, White informs each design with the art and architecture that fit the house and the client. And he's unique. White is a nationally ranked distance rollerblade racer and also pioneered the national SAFE Kids Campaign, helping to rewrite building codes to prevent thousands of scalding burns annually.

In addition to running his firm, Kitchen & Bath Design in Newport Beach, CA, which is celebrating its 30th anniversary, White is a professor of kitchen and bath design at the Interior Designer's Institute in Newport Beach, where he is renowned for his lighting expertise. But just what catches his eye these days? For him, **Pure/Edge** lighting (4) is "the most innovative, with many fixtures that are sleek, minimal and feature the latest energy-efficient technologies. Its Aurora fixture combines halogen and RGB LED sources, which allows me to add chromatherapy to my designs, creating different moods."

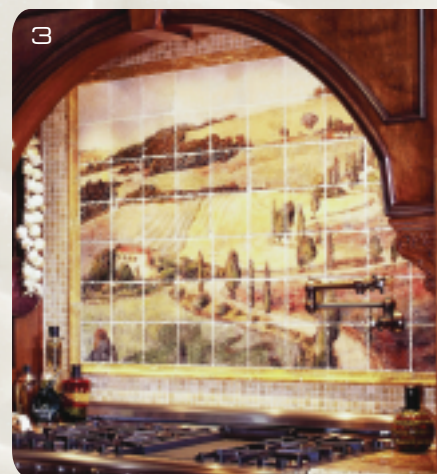
His Craftsman cravings pull him toward natural materials, tempered by practicality. For surfacing, he loves **CaesarStone** (1). "I have both natural granite and CaesarStone in my own kitchen and it has made me acutely aware of the difference in maintenance and durability between them," explained White. "CaesarStone's color range is the best in the quartz field and I like the way its calmer tones allow me more freedom with my backsplash choices. There is simply nothing more durable and easy to care for."

He finds a similar balanced appeal in **Blanco**'s Silgranit sinks (2). "I'm especially fond of the Performa one and three-quarter bowl in the new Café Brown color, which goes so well with the popular warm bronze tones," said White. "The texture of Silgranit, made of 80-percent granite, is not only unique but always looks clean."

An avid fan of architect Charles Rennie Mackintosh, White loves the handcrafted approach, but with a modern twist. "I'm intrigued by the expanding uses of digital imagery," White said. One example is **StoneImpressions** (3), which custom prints any design by hand on stone. "You can personalize a backsplash with a favorite fabric pattern or a favorite watercolor or print," he said.

With its appeal for embellishing light, glass finds its way into his designs. "I use glass in cabinetry and shower surrounds, but also for counters or even floors," he said. **UltraGlas** (5) creates unique applications of kiln-formed glass in surprising colors and textures. "I've done 'floating' counters that can be back- or edge-lit for a powerful design statement, just like a dramatic scene on stage," he said. "I feel that I have never left the theatrical world, but have just changed venues. One of the best ways to judge the success of a design is by measuring how wide and how long the mouths of visitors are left open." ■

—Christina Trauthwein



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