

# Condos go sleek and ultra modern

- ▶ Bye-bye broadloom — laminate or hardwood floors are the new norm
- ▶ And the richer the material, the better



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From appliances to lighting to furnishings, these days, ultra modern is in. When you look at the newest condos and lofts being marketed, you can see a shifting trend in finishes and layouts.

The traditional U-shaped kitchens are being replaced with linear (along one wall) kitchens and European cabinetry and appliances, such as hide-away fridges and dishwashers, wall ovens and built-in cooktop stoves.

An easy and effective remodeling trend for condos is a lighting upgrade. With

a lighting makeover, you can remodel and dramatically alter the appearance of your condo and create a new, refreshing environment.

Lighting is another important trend that is only beginning to catch on as an enhancing feature, and the line between art and lighting is blurring as people are spending lavishly for lighting that makes an impact when you walk into a room.

For a sleek and ultra-modern look, there is resurgence to high-gloss white mixed with stainless steel and glass accents, both in cabinetry and appliances. John Maguire of

Royal LePage realty believes that current trends are about to change.

“The future will be more a mix of antique pieces with custom one of a kind and modern pieces. Instead of dark wood, or the previous maple trend, we will see more interesting materials like pickled, bleached or limed wood, especially oak, and different stains like lighter charcoal instead of dark brown.”

Adding “fab” factors to square footage makes all the difference, according to recent Sales Achievement Award winner, Lori Lawrence.

“Resale purchasers now

expect stainless steel appliances and granite or stone countertops as the norm.”

She maintains that oiled bronze is the “new” stainless steel. Oiled bronze adds beautiful coppery highlights and warmth to any kitchen, from contemporary to French provincial — accented with stainless steel handles and pulls to add sparkle.”

Smaller, streamlined furniture is the trend, rather than big, bulky house furniture that looks out of place in a modern condominium. The place to look is Toronto’s designer furniture alley along King Street East at Sherbourne Street.



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▶ European cabinetry and appliances are fast catching on for condo kitchens.



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▶ Smaller, more streamlined furniture is now en vogue.



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▶ A lighting makeover can create a refreshing environment.