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-- Henry Ford



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Kitchen islands for modern homes

By Sangeetha G. Dec 02 2010

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IF YOU own a sprawling ho use with a fairly large kitch en, island counters would definitely add style to your cooking space. Kitchen islands or island counters in the kitchen is rather a western concept, but they are, increasingly now, part of modern Indian homes.

Kitchen island is a freestanding counter, mostly in the centre of the kitchen where the cooking stove and sink is installed.

Being at the centre it provides a good `kitchen work triangle' according to which the stove, sink and the refrigerator has to be in close proximity to minimise the effort in reaching out to any of the three while cooking.

"Kitchen islands are mostly preferred by NRI returnees and especially those from the US since the concept is more common in houses there. Kitchen islands add to the convenience and accessibility in the kitchen. They are becoming part of large individual houses," said Dameem Ansari, principal architect, Ansari Associates Architects and Interior Designers.

While the demand mainly comes from individual house owners, property developers have also started incorporating kitchen islands in large villas. Big houses of 3,500 sq ft and above can have the luxury of a kitchen island. The kitchen should be at least 14 ft long and 12 ft wide. The island needs to have at leas 7 ft length and 3 ft width.

The counter should be covered from four sides so as to conceal the plumbing line waste line and the gas cylinder inside. Usually plywood or lami nated sheets are used for this purpose. Cupboards, modular pull-outs and different combina tion of baskets can be fitted within this space and can be t used as a good storage area.

"Granite slabs that cost around Rs 200 per sq ft are com monly used as counter tops.

, Corian counter tops from Du s Pont costs Rs 600 per sq ft and come in different colours and shades," said Ansari.

"For those who want to mod ify the kitchen for a kitchen island, the flooring has to b broken so as to bring plumbing electrical and waste lines to th central portion. A false ceilin has to be made over the counte so as to fix an electric chimne and conceal the electric wires Lighting at the central part to has to be taken care of," he said While a normal modula kitchen with all the accessorie can cost Rs 1.5 lakh to Rs 2 lakh, one with an island can cos Rs 3 lakh.

"Kitchen islands increas accessibility and convenience a they cut the distance between th refrigerator, sink and the stove They make the stove, especiall the three and four-burner ones accessible from all sides," said Ansari. More than one person can work on the stove simultaneously Question of time and space

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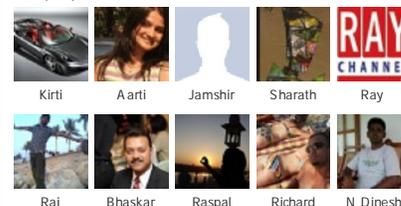


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