



NO RULES

By Jon Ruffy

All the bells and whistles are available with custom kitchen islands and range hoods.

Imagine the kitchen of your dreams, with each detail designed exactly as you want it. The best way to achieve a dreamy kitchen is to custom build it, adding creative and unique elements, textures, finishes, colors, and designs that express your personal style.

Two of the most creative elements in a kitchen— islands and range hoods—can be completely customized so you end up with a kitchen unlike any other.

Custom kitchen islands have become the central focus of the kitchen—a room that is already the central hub of the home.

Islands have moved from purely utilitarian functions to appealing focal points. Interesting countertop shapes—curves, beveled and waterfall edges, streamlined and square—are the starting point for customizing an island. The wide range of natural stone and engineered countertop choices today mean homeowners can add any shade of color and movement and even customize countertop depth. Island bases can echo the colors and design of the kitchen's primary cabinetry, or they can branch out with a complementary design statement of their own. Homeowners may want to use a beautifully grained natural wood island to warm up a white kitchen, or they may consider painting the base cabinetry a different color or darker shade than the upper cabinetry to ground the space. Adding custom molding creates an island reminiscent of



PHOTOGRAPHY BY DUSTIN PECK.

furniture, while built-in appliances like microwave drawers, beverage fridges, and refrigerated drawers can make it one of the most functional parts of the kitchen. An island can provide extra storage while still being beautiful. Customize it with bookshelves for cookbooks, glass tilt-out bin drawers, or additional base cabinetry.

What you add above the island can further customize the kitchen experience. Light fixtures are another chance to radically customize the space, moving the kitchen to a more contemporary feel, traditionally inspired, or just plain funky.

For those who choose to integrate a stovetop into the island, a unique range hood design can be the jewelry the island needs.

Rufty Homes' interior designer network provides resources and inspiration for homeowners, who work with a qualified professional to express creativity through uniquely shaped range hoods or those constructed with novel materials. Like islands, range hoods have moved out of the realm of purely functional kitchen elements and into the domain of creative ingenuity. Adding details such as brass accents, integrated lighting, and recessed shelving can create a truly custom look.

There's no one way to make your kitchen stand out as a unique and beautiful space. As I always like to say, "If you can dream it, we can build it." Forgetting the trends and designing what you love is the best way to put a stamp on the hub of the home. There are no rules to follow in custom construction. ♦



“FORGETTING THE TRENDS AND DESIGNING WHAT YOU LOVE IS THE BEST WAY TO PUT A STAMP ON THE HUB OF THE HOME.”

TOP: ANNA ROUTH; BOTTOM: TAD DAVIS.

Contact **RUFTY HOMES** at **919-460-8550** or email **JON@RUFTY.COM**.