

SPECIAL REAL ESTATE SECTION • SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2019

## Miami Beach retreat features pool, lush landscaping

Full of charm and tremendous curb appeal, this historic, 1936 Miami Beach home is one-of-a-kind. The lush and expansive residence at 4475 Alton Road features four bedrooms, four baths, numerous updates and an abundance of exterior living spaces. Priced at \$1,375,000, it showcases the splendor of yesteryear, yet offers an impressive array of modern conveniences.



Inside, residents can enjoy 3,169 square feet of living area. Warm and inviting, the home features a mix of formal and casual living areas, including a large formal living room with a

keystone fireplace and a formal dining room. The updated, eat-in-style kitchen has been outfitted with a center island, rich wood cabinetry and stainless steel appliances. Additional upgrades include a new roof that was installed in 2018.

Outside, the oversized, 10,421-square-foot lot is a dreamy oasis, comprising a covered outdoor patio, a beautifully designed pool area and a separate Jacuzzi. Tropical landscaping encircles the dwelling, giving the backyard a very private and secluded feel. Replete with conveniences, the home also has a two-car garage, circular driveway, laundry room, two water heaters and a six-foot privacy wall across the back of the property.

For more information, contact Esther Percal at 305-674-4022 or visit [www.EstherPercal.com](http://www.EstherPercal.com).



Above: Outside, the home comprises a covered outdoor patio, a pool area and a separate Jacuzzi. Below: The kitchen has been outfitted with a center island, rich wood cabinetry and stainless steel appliances.



The home is full of charm and boasts tremendous curb appeal.



## Add interest to the kitchen with a creative backsplash

BY JANA SOELDNER DANGER  
Special to South Florida Home

The kitchen backsplash may not be a large space, but it is an important one. Its practical function, of course, is to protect the drywall from cooking splatters, and it is possible to get by with just washable paint or a continuation of the countertop material. But in many homes, the backsplash has become a visual centerpiece that incorporates all kinds of decorative elements, and because it's usually a small area, even using more expensive materials is often affordable.

### LAST THING

"It's the absolute last thing that should go in when you're redoing a kitchen," said Chris Carey, tile and stone manager at Allied Kitchen and Bath in Fort Lauderdale. "It's the hardest thing to choose, because it's such a focal point and right at eye level."

"It's the jewelry that finishes the kitchen," said Alena Capra, an interior designer in Fort Lauderdale. "It ties everything together."

Another reason backsplashes are important: With today's architecture, they are often visible from spaces other than the kitchen. "So many floorplans are open now," Carey said. "You may want to harmonize with whatever room the kitchen is open to."

### TRADITIONAL OR CONTEMPORARY?

When choosing a backsplash, start by considering the style of the kitchen. "Is it traditional or very contemporary?" Carey said. "What kind of flooring do you have? How much dark cabinetry is there? Is there under-cabinet lighting?"

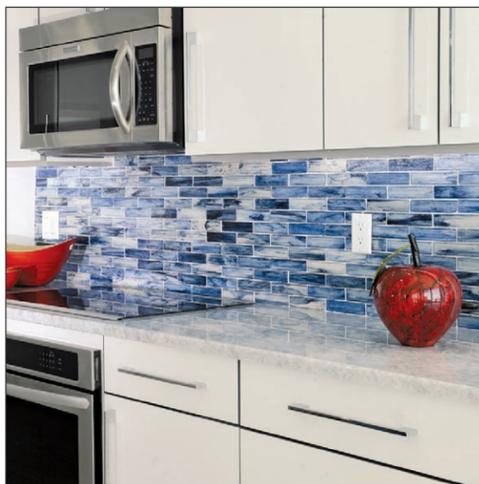
In a kitchen with dark cabinetry, a lighter backsplash may be an attractive contrast. In a neutral or all white kitchen, bolder colors may be a good choice. Under-cabinet lighting can brighten darker tones. But it's not necessary to follow rules or guidelines. It's really a matter of what appeals to the homeowner.

### MATERIALS, COLORS, LOOKS

There are many different options for materials, colors and looks. Most backsplashes are made with tiles (although some are formed with strips or sheets), which can be created from a variety of materials. "We see just about everything—ceramic, glass, concrete, porcelain and natural stone," said Sarah



Left: A neutral backsplash above the cooktop accents walls painted a deep color. Right: A blue backsplash adds unexpected color and interest to this kitchen (Courtesy of Allied Kitchen & Bath)



Left: Subway tile can be an attractive and functional material for a backsplash. Right: A backsplash can help tie the rest of the kitchen's décor together. (Courtesy of Darryl Nobles & Alena Capra)



Fishburne, director of trend and design for The Home Depot.

"People often go with something simple, classic and quiet, but there are also bold colors to choose from," Carey said.

A bolder backsplash can add pizzazz to a neutral décor. "As we see more and more white-on-white kitchens, which create more of a blank canvas, we see homeowners using tile backsplashes to really customize their kitchens and express their style," Fishburne said.

### MOSAICS

Mosaics can add color, texture and pattern to the backsplash. Good news: They no longer have to be painstaking, free-hand projects. A do-it-yourselfer may want to try using mesh sheets with preset mosaics and interlocking sides to make the design work easy. "Some of the tiles don't even need grout," Fishburne said, adding that many Home Depot stores offer backsplash workshops.

### CREATIVE SHAPES

Whether they choose a mosaic or a straight pattern, homeowners are getting creative with shapes. "Shape is playing as much a part in backsplash design as color and material," Fishburne said. "We're seeing more white geometric tiles in diamonds, hexagons and unique shapes."

The emphasis on form may be the reason for the popularity of waterjet mosaics. "Cutting the stone or metal with a water-

jet allows you to do all kinds of intricate shapes," Capra said.

One versatile shape is a quatrefoil, said Pam Moskowitz, vice president of business development at Allied Kitchen and Bath. "It has a traditional look, but it can appear contemporary when matched with flat, ultra-contemporary cabinetry. It adds interest."

### DEPTH, TEXTURE AND GLISTEN

Many backsplashes today are made with 3D tiles, which give the surface depth and texture. They may be placed in a wave or pyramid pattern, Carey said. For a traditional look: "We're having more people ask about thin brick—real bricks cut to half an inch thick," she added.

Glass tiles make the surface glisten. "They can be mixed with stone, and matte finishes and textures," Carey said.

When the homeowner wants something pure white, however, glass tiles may not be the best choice. "It's hard to get a true white with glass," Carey said. "They might want a white glazed tile instead."

Sheets of glass instead of tiles can create a dramatic look, Carey said. The back of the glass sheet can be painted any color before it is installed.

Another way to put sparkle into a backsplash is with metallic accents. "You can use brass or stainless with glass or marble," Capra said.

"Strips of stainless complement appliances and add a lot of life," Moskowitz said.

For even more gleam, as well as reflection, use tiles made of antique mirror. "Antique mirror mixed with stone is big," Capra said.

### CLASSICS

Some choices never go out of style. "We're still using subway tile," Capra said. "It's classic and people love it. It's a look everyone is comfortable with."

Even with classic subway tile, however, people are getting more creative. "We're seeing a twist on subways, like beveled, longer lengths, cracked and hand-crafted so they are less perfect," Fishburne said.

While creativity should reign when choosing a backsplash, certain materials are best avoided. "I wouldn't recommend stacked or split-faced stone," Carey said. "It would be hard to clean."



Subway tile can be an attractive and functional material for a backsplash (Courtesy of Darryl Nobles & Alena Capra)