

## 2017 Connecticut Design Trends



### Wide plank and random width flooring

Sunshine Floors has showrooms in Canton, Bridgeport and Norwalk, so owner, Razvan Tata (RT) knows the market statewide.

According to RT, “the market continues to trend toward longer and wider planks and random widths. The wide-width plank creates a sense of openness and space for a rich, sophisticated style that elevates any room décor. Longer and wider planks different cuts quartered sawn only, rift only, rift and quartered, plain sawn and center cut, are also a better platform to showcase hardwood’s unique features and textures, and wider boards means fewer boards are needed for the installation, which in turn means fewer, less visible joints. The result is a dramatic, more uniform look that lets the authenticity of the wood shine through.

Rustic and distressed looks featuring mineral streaking, knots, hand-scraping and wire brushing that aim to add character, also continue to rise in popularity across the Northeast.

Color-wise, manufacturers are exploring new possibilities for today’s most popular shades, while revamping classic hues. Grays are “hot”. Like all white kitchens, gray hardwood flooring shows no indication of losing popularity any time soon because gray and non traditional colors have a more contemporary look and feel.

There’s a small growing segment of the market that is bringing herringbone back in the design. That segment is going to continue to grow over the years.

Taking color and design a step further, manufacturers are creating hardwood planks that can be mixed and matched. Most recently, customers are requesting the mixing of colors on the floor, to create a patchwork, or what designers like to call a ‘mixed up aesthetic, as seen in this photo (above right) on Houzz. In most cases, colors come combined in a box, but by using numerous colors from a collection, you can create a unique non-monolithic look.

### Kitchens and baths

Tyra Dellacroce of Connecticut Stone talks about what’s hot in kitchens and baths:

- ▶ This season, Connecticut Stone is seeing the strong trend to clean, tranquil spaces. In kitchens, this means waterfall islands, where the stone counter flows down the ends of the island from counter to floor.
- ▶ In bathrooms, tile or stone is being designed using large format tiles from the ceiling to the floor throughout the bathroom, not just in the shower. This creates a clean, modern look, and expands the space visually, and large tiles use far less grout.
- ▶ Another popular feature is seamless trough sinks in both bathrooms and kitchens - where countertop and sink are integrated using the same stone, as seen in this Greenwich bath from Connecticut Stone.

*(continued)*



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According to Frank Webb Bath Center, freestanding tubs are still the rage and are available in different styles, materials and sizes. Lighter weight, small footprint freestanding tubs are a popular item in our urban showrooms for city dwellers in apartments and condos. On the more luxury side for suburban homeowners, the soaking/relaxation/spa-like tub, like the MTI Stream Bath, supports the new “home spa,” “healthy bathroom” trend.



The Stream Bath™ from MTI is a new form of luxurious hydrotherapy, relaxation at its best. Stream Bath creates the gentle touch and soothing sound of a slowly moving forest stream. The ultimate soaking tub, Stream Bath is ideal for all ages, from the very young to the more senior. Available through your nearest Frank Webb's Bath Center Showroom: [frankwebb.com](http://frankwebb.com)



Smooth, bright and extraordinarily solid, the Cape Cod bathtub from Duravit was designed to be spectacular yet simple. This free-standing tub fuses innovative material and organic form in a monolithic design. The finer details include the stunningly thin tub rims, gentle curves, and integrated headrest. The satin-finished surface is pleasant to the touch and creates a fine interplay between light and shadow. Available through Frank Webb's Bath Center showrooms: [frankwebb.com](http://frankwebb.com).

## Three New Ways to Bring Luxury Into Your Kitchen from Clarke Distributors

### Wolf's New Contemporary Gas Cooktop

The Wolf contemporary gas cooktop is stunning in both performance and design. It has a striking, integrated look, with a cooking surface that sits flush to the countertop, and control knobs that mount to the cabinet panel of your choice. And the cooking performance is nothing less than thrilling, with the most powerful Wolf dual-stacked burner ever – a searing 20,000 Btu!



This powerful central burner delivers faster boils and restaurant-quality sears. It's flanked by four dual-stacked sealed burners that offer precise control from high end to steady low-end simmers and melts. Porcelain-coated, cast iron grates let you slide pans easily from one burner to another. And the seamless stainless steel burner pan is easy to clean. If you're aiming for new culinary heights, the CG365C/S is the cooktop to do it with.



### Take the Guesswork Out of Cooking With Wolf's M Series Ovens

Now is your time to try your most ambitious meal, with the new Wolf 30" M series built-in double oven. It takes the guesswork out of even the most difficult dishes. Just dial in any of 10 precision cooking modes, and the oven delivers the optimal heat and airflow for the dish. Imagine beautifully browned roast

chicken, perfect chocolate chip cookies, crisply crusted casserole. The Dual VertiCross™ system is Wolf's most advanced dual convection ever, quickly saturating the oven cavity with consistent heat across all racks. The cooking modes are precise and intuitive, to ensure that the meal you bring to the table is every bit as delicious as the meal you had in mind. A Gourmet feature has a menu of presets that automatically controls the cooking, making commonly prepared meals quick and easy. And the sleek handleless design of Wolf's new Contemporary M series oven, you simply push on the sleek door and it effortlessly opens.

### Your Outdoor Kitchen Just Reached a New Level

Bring the design and worry-free performance of Sub-Zero refrigeration to your outdoor kitchen. With Sub-Zero 24" outdoor refrigerator drawers, advanced food preservation features keep fresh food and beverages at your fingertips. The outdoor drawers, paired with outdoor panels, have been engineered for temperatures up to 110°F and clad in heavy-gauge stainless steel that withstands UV rays, salt, and moisture – elements that would corrode lesser materials. Sub-Zero's outdoor refrigerator drawers hold 4 cu. ft. of food, and keeps it fresher with smart-touch technology that



lets you control temperatures from 34°F to 45°F. Organization is easy, with adjustable (and removable) dividers that allow you to separate fresh foods, beverages, snacks and more.

Learn everything you need to know about designing your indoor or outdoor kitchen with a visit to Clarke, New England's Official Sub-Zero & Wolf Showroom and Test Kitchen at 64 South Main Street in South Norwalk. Visit [clarkeliving.com](http://clarkeliving.com) for more information.

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### Outdoor Entertaining

In 2017, the goal to create an oasis in your backyard. O&G Industries newest 118 page elegant magazine, Stylish Spaces in Masonry is packed with excellent articles by industry experts. Here is an excerpt from a Techo-Bloc article on “*Creating Outdoor Spaces with Style in Mind*”.

#### Sleek sophistication: Contemporary Style

The contemporary Techo-Bloc style is a modern and minimalist approach; consider sleek lines and smooth textures. Geometric patterns, as seen with the Graphix wall right, create a sleek but visually interesting effect to build everything from raised patios and garden beds to outdoor kitchens and a matching fire pit. For pool decks, smooth and polished textures such as the Blu Grande, create a clean and modern look

#### Seeking Comfort: Polished Casual

Create intimacy by building a seating wall around your fire pit to accommodate guests. Elements like fire and water are two great features that amplify serenity and peacefulness in a garden setting. Photos on the right feature the Prescott firepit, Mini-Creta seating walls, Aberdeen slabs and Antika paver border.



### A New Vibe in Your Backyard: Country Rustic

Nothing says rustic like the raw texture of wood. Borealis outdoor slabs bring a modern twist to an otherwise traditional product. Although they look and feel exactly like wood, Borealis slabs have all the durability of concrete and do not require any special maintenance. No more rotting wood decks, sanding or



treating; they're incredibly resistant to freeze-thaw cycles (and other harsh climates) and look great throughout every season. Pictured below are Techo-Bloc's Borealis slabs, outdoor kitchen done in Brandon wall, a custom pizza oven built in Brandon wall and a custom fireplace made with Brandon mason. □