



## EVERYTHING AND THE KITCHEN SINK

### Three Easy Design Tips

by Sean Michael Bradley

I am always impressed by the architect or designer who truly changes the ways we look at the spaces in which we live and the products that surround us. In looking at what's new in the realm of home design, I'd like to chat about designer secrets that make life easier.

Today, let's talk about the everyday, commonplace kitchen sink. There are three simple tricks that I have found to make the kitchen sink more user-friendly.

The first is the "secret" of the width of the sink. A standard sink is 33" wide, but there is no law that requires us to adhere to this standard measurement. It seems though that most everyone settles for this size sink.

Instead, I specify that I want a sink that is 36" wide. These larger sinks are available from Kindred, Blanco, and Kohler. It is absolutely amazing what an extra three inches in the sink's measurement can do. It is important, however, when you are going with a larger sink, that you also specify a sink base large enough to accommodate it.

I prefer an offset configuration with a larger bowl on the left

and a decent sized smaller bowl on the right. When my boys were small, I could bathe one in each side of the sink. I can also clean a large turkey in my large basin, minus the boys, of course!

The next trick is in the kitchen drain pop-up. Why does the bathroom have a drain pop-up? We rarely use it in the bathroom, put it in the kitchen instead! Mountain, Rohl, and Blanco are manufacturers who offer the kitchen sink pop-ups.

Wouldn't it be nice if you didn't have to plunge your arm through greasy water to pop up the drain in the sink? Wiping chunks of floating food off your arm could be avoided by adding a drain pop-up to your kitchen sink.

If the remote pop-up seems too space age for you, then consider my third designer trick, the extra-deep strainer basket. Franke makes this little helper, and it really is as advertised, an extra deep basket, about three inches deeper than the standard sink strainer. It gets you through the dishes without having to dump out the gross little pile of garbage that accumulates faster in smaller strainer baskets.

A good designer should have a bag of tricks, some of them so simple and easy that you wonder why no one mentioned them sooner. The tricks are a combination of smart design and a knowledge of product use and availability.



The kitchen sink, you use it everyday, so why shouldn't it be designed with you in mind? ♦

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