

Kitchen Cabinets, The Kitchen Door

Your kitchen is the center of your home, not only because it produces the food to feed and sustain you and your family, but because it's the place to find warmth, companionship, and that unspoken verity that contentment arises not out of our achievements, but out of our connections.

Designing a kitchen and outfitting it with the tangible things that make the intangible possible is without a doubt among the most pleasurable – and challenging – tasks of building or renovating a home. Kitchen Cabinets, a family-run cabinet business, and the Kitchen Door, both in the Kailua Industrial Area, offer homeowners great choice, quality, and service when planning and completing a kitchen.

Kitchen Cabinets

Just stepping into Kitchen Cabinets, located on Luhia St. in the Kailua Industrial Area, is an experience of the senses. Smooth Corian countertops, and contemporary and elegant cabinets delight the touch and the eye. Kitchen Cabinets offers its customers the only complete showroom in Kona.

The business opened two years ago and is owned and operated by Marjan and Dieter Steindamm with Marjan's brother Ali Ghalamfarsa, a family of highly-talented and knowledgeable people who bring to the cabinet business dedication to detail, expertise, and a flair for design. By trade, Marjan is a graphic designer, Dieter a design consultant, and Ghalamfarsa an architect.

The business specializes in remodeling and custom cabinetry, and offers appliances, sinks and facets, and custom countertop installation. It also carries a wide selection of vertical blinds.

The company sells Crystal cabinets, a modular factory-built cabinet that is available as either semi-custom or completely customized cabinets. "We can make your cabinets anyway you want," Marjan says. "Any size, any color, material, any wood species. We will custom fit any area."

Crystal's line of cabinets include a choice of seven woods: red or white oak, cherry, maple, birch, pine, or hickory. The cabinets are finished with an oven-baked varnish to lock in moisture resistance. Styles include sleek European to traditional country and are built of all plywood construction, free of any particle board. There are hundreds of accessories and options to choose from, from recycling bins to a special pull-out table-in-a-drawer for extra working space.

Because cabinet-making and installation is an exact science, Marjan emphasizes the importance of having a professional install cabinets. "Putting kitchen cabinets together needs the supervision of a professional -- one-quarter inch can make a difference. It takes a lot of expertise."

Kitchen Cabinets offers kitchen design for no charge. Customers are encouraged to bring in a plan of their kitchen and to work with the owners to custom-design their kitchen to fit their own needs and desires.

One important element to consider when designing cabinets is weather. "Climate is a big issue," says Marjan. "If you live in Waimea or some other mauka area where it's damp, you won't want to use particle board, you must use plywood."

Another thing to be aware of is to design your cabinets when your home's framing is finished. "Don't wait until the sheetrock is up to come see us," warns Marjan.

She also points out that those families who are building a new house, adding a room or planning major remodeling should check with their lenders to

see if the cost of kitchen cabinets can be incorporated into their mortgage. Because the units are fixed, they are often considered built-ins by lenders and, as such, their cost can be amortized over a period of years.

Kitchen Cabinets is located at 74-5598 Luhia St. in the Kailua Industrial Area. It is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.. The phone number is 329-5836.

The Kitchen Door

Ah, the smells. The gadgets. The ceramics, glassware, pots and pans. It's enough to make you want to spring clean your home, invite some guests over, and cook up a gourmet meal.

Even if you've never enjoyed cooking and wouldn't know a pasta maker from a potato peeler, the Kitchen Door will make you believe that what you've always wanted is... an apron.

Originally the Back Room, and, since two years ago, the Back Room *and* the Kitchen Door, the store carries the ultimate in kitchen, bath, and bedroom accessories: kitchen tools, appliances and gadgets, including a complete Cuisinart line; unique pots and pans; pottery, ceramics, and glassware of many unique designs and styles; kitchen linens, placemats and utensils; plump and fluffy pillows; gorgeous silk plants and greens; an assortment of throw rugs; creative bath accessories; 70 different shower curtains; and a variety of gifts for wedding, housewarming, or anniversaries.

The store also stocks gourmet foods such as pasta, coffees, spices, and oils.

Owned and operated by Cindy Holtz, the Kitchen Door's motto is that "Service is number one." Holtz offers a variety of services, including special orders, free gift wrapping, and customized gift baskets, which are "especially nice at Christmas."

The Back Room and the Kitchen Door is located at Pawai Place in the Kailua Industrial Area. It is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The phone number is 329-9554.

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