

NEW YORK SPACES

THE HOME DESIGN MAGAZINE OF METROPOLITAN NEW YORK



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A taste for hi-tech

Today's new wave of kitchen appliances

Technophiles, rejoice: Kitchen appliances are more advanced than ever. And the latest batch has something even for those who aren't ga-ga for gadgets, with designs that emphasize ease of use and convenience. Now at-home chefs can cook a 12-pound turkey in a mere 42 minutes or watch the evening news while organizing the fridge. Here, a look at the hi-tech heart of the home.

1 BEAUTY OVERHEAD

Contemporary meets space-saving with the Torino island hood from Zephyr, \$3,765. The sleek 36-inch unit with six speeds is powered by a remote control. It features a frosted-glass canopy, shown in red, which also comes in green, blue and yellow.



2 FAST FOOD

Adding color and convenience to the kitchen is the new TurboChef single wall Speedcook oven, \$5,995. The compact 30-inch unit uses patented technology that blows hot air throughout the cavity at speeds up to 60 mph to prepare meals up to 15 times faster than conventional methods. It features seven cooking modes, and its LCD screen displays more than 400 cooking profiles.



3 ZAP IN A SNAP The Millennia Microwave In-a-Drawer from Dacor, \$1,049, frees up coveted counter space. Ideal for under the counter and islands, the 1-cubic-foot piece opens with the touch of a button, has preset cook times and features a sensor cooking mode that automatically detects when food is done.



4 WASH AND STORE Built to fit urban living, the dishwasher and storage center from Fagor, \$1,700, houses a central dishwasher with three drawers: two above for flatware, gadgets and dinnerware, plus one below for pots and pans. The compact stainless-steel unit offers ease of loading.



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5 ROOM TO ROAST The 4.7-cubic-foot capacity of the new stainless-steel single oven from Thermador's Professional Series, \$3,299, provides enough space to prepare rotisserie dinners indoors. It also offers the market's fastest self-clean cycle—two hours—and a speed convection mode to reduce cooking time by 30 percent.



6 LIFT OFF Gaggeneau's Lift oven, \$3,399, discreetly hides among cabinetry. Its automatic elevating base allows food to be loaded and unloaded at counter height, eliminating the need to reach into a hot cavity.



7 KEEP COOL

The LG HDTV refrigerator, \$3,999, turns the kitchen into entertainment central. In addition to a 15-inch high-definition television screen and FM radio, the unit offers an LCD screen that displays weather forecasts, a recipe bank and a digital photo album, plus a DVD connection.

8 DOUBLE DUTY

Forget coordinating multiple cooking times: The GE Profile Double Oven Freestanding Range, starting at \$1,699, can heat two different dishes at two different temperatures at the same time. With 6.6 cubic feet of total cooking space, the range features an induction cooktop and a 2.2-cubic-foot upper oven with a pizza mode.

