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# Counter Space: Design And The Modern Kitchen



## Synopsis

Over the course of the past century, the kitchen, more than any other room in the modern dwelling, has been the focus of intensive aesthetic and technological innovation. Historically, European and American kitchens were often drab, poorly ventilated, and hidden from view in a basement or annex. Toward the end of the nineteenth century, however, the kitchen became a central concern of modernism and a testing ground for new materials and technologies. Since then, the room has come to articulate and at times actively challenge societal relationships to food, consumerism, the domestic role of women, and even international politics. *Counter Space* examines the twentieth-century transformation of the kitchen through the collection of The Museum of Modern Art, featuring a wide variety of design objects, architectural plans, posters, archival photographs and artworks--ranging from the iconic Frankfurt Kitchen, mass-produced for German public housing estates in the aftermath of World War I, to an electric tea kettle, heat-resistant glass wares, and colorful plastics, such as Tupperware and Japanese artificial food. With an introductory essay by Juliet Kinchin, Curator in MoMA's Department of Architecture and Design, this volume is a lively exploration of the kitchen as a barometer of changing technology, aesthetics, and ideologies.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Using a tantalizing sprawl of design objects, artifacts and artworks, this exhibition places the modern kitchen in a broad historical context... *Counter Space* sprints with dazzling speed and pinpoint precision across an amazing amount of social and aesthetic history, and shows how these histories

are connected. --Roberta Smith, The New York Times Exactly what distinguished the kitchen's architecture, technology and design--and why kitchens matter at all--is at the heart of what this thought-provoking and informative exhibit is about. -- Martha Stewart

this was a disappointment to me because I didn't realize that it's really just the exhibition catalog printed up in book form. I did enjoy looking at the pictures, but I expected a real book, which it is not.

This book has some great photos and a good political analysis. Full of great artists and an interesting historical background of the kitchen and art that surrounds it.

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