

LE GOURMET KITCHENS, LTD. VENDORS

by J. Anderson

Two things determine the choice of vendors that Le Gourmet Kitchen Ltd. recommends to its kitchen-remodel clients: the integrity of the company and the quality of its products – in that order.

"In this business, you get what you pay for," said Bruce Colucci, who founded Le Gourmet Kitchen Ltd. nearly 15 years ago. "Every vendor that we promote or work with, we do so because we know the vendor offers an excellent value for the dollar."

The kitchen is often the most utilized room in the house, so the quality-to-cost ratio of its materials is important. Appliances, cabinetry and surfaces such as counters and floors must stand up to a lot of use. In Colucci's experience, companies built on a foundation of integrity consistently create sophisticated products whose return value in terms of performance is worth more than the extra dollars the product itself may cost.

Colucci's business partner and fellow designer, Jonathan Salmon, agrees that the integrity of a company determines everything else about it.

"I have found that the companies that treat us with respect are those that have integrity. It's no coincidence that they are also the ones that make the finest products out there," he said. "Our clients are high-end, discriminating people who expect things to last for a long time. To know that I'm using products from a company that stands behind its products and responds to my clients' needs is really important."

Le Gourmet Kitchen Ltd.'s well-designed Web site, www.legourmetkitchen.com, offers details on the select vendors that Colucci and Salmon endorse to their clients. The vendors vary widely in products and styles, but all of them are innovative in the dynamic world of kitchen design, and all have a reputation of standing behind their products, according to Colucci and Salmon.



■ **WOOD-MODE:** "This is an American company that's recognized as one of the leaders in the country as a custom-cabinet manufacturer," Colucci said. "Most of our showroom features Wood-Mode products for a very good reason: they're beautiful and timeless." Salmon added, "Wood-Mode's cabinets are made like fine furniture, and they have beautiful, long-lasting finishes and styles."

■ **ARTCRAFT KITCHENS:** "This phenomenal line is from a Canadian company that manufactures its products in the style of the Germans and the Italians, who have traditionally been the leading innovators in kitchen design," Colucci said, adding that Artcraft's specialty is veneers, lacquers and laminates.

■ **ENKEBOLL DESIGNS:** Small visual details have a major impact on the big picture of any design. Enkeboll Designs specializes in architectural accents such as moldings, columns, plinths, corbels, and more.

■ **HAFELE:** "We often turn to Hafele for high-quality specialty items like spice racks, pull-out pantries, corner solutions and other convenience features," Colucci said. "They have a huge catalog packed with wonderful resources for all kinds of challenges."

■ **ED PAWLACK TILE:** Founded in Los Angeles in 1934, the family-owned company is now located in Brea. Its unique, artistic products reflect the company's understanding and appreciation of the rich traditions of ceramic-tile and stone surfaces that can enrich kitchen design.

■ **DACOR:** Salmon regards Dacor, an appliance manufacturer, as the epitome of the superior vendor. "Dacor makes a very fine product, they really think about how their product is going to be used, and they treat everyone from their employees to their customers extremely well," he said.

■ **CAESARSTONE:** Colucci and Salmon can't say enough about the countertops created by Caesarstone, especially a new line called "Concerto," which features individually cut, semiprecious stones set in a countertop surface.

■ **BENTWOOD KITCHENS:** According to Colucci and Salmon, Bentwood Kitchens consistently pushes the design envelope in the creation of cabinets and kitchens. Its team is made up of designers, woodcrafters, and finishers who regard their work as art.

■ **MIELE:** A manufacturer of high-end household appliances, Miele uses consumer testing to determine what Americans want

with regard to kitchen appliances, and then has its engineers create them. Its products include dishwashers, laundry systems, warming drawers, speed ovens, ventilation hoods, ceramic cook tops, steam ovens, regular ovens, coffee systems and more.

■ **SUB-ZERO:** "This family owned company has been a pioneer for decades – for example, Sub-Zero was one of the first to introduce integrated refrigeration systems compatible for the American market," said Colucci.

■ **WOLF:** "A Wolf product is more than just a tool for cooking," Wolf promises. "It's an invitation to cook." The philosophy fits perfectly with that of Le Gourmet Kitchen Ltd.

■ **LIGHT BULBS ETC:** Operates 2 full service lighting showrooms in Orange County with more than 20,000 sq feet of the very latest in lighting fashions.

Le Gourmet Kitchen Ltd., features other vendors in addition to the companies listed above in its showroom and on its Web site. The showroom is at 541 West Chapman Ave. in Orange. For more information, call 714-939-6227.