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Wednesday, April 11, 2007

Cool cabinets

Where to turn for an affordable contemporary kitchen

JULIE FITZGERALD | CIN WEEKLY

New cabinetry can dramatically improve the look of an outdated kitchen. And for homeowners seeking a modern finish, Julie Savchenko says to check out a line of semicustom cabinets called Sammy's Kitchen.

Savchenko owns a start-up kitchen and bath design company called Cooknee, which means "kitchen" in Russian, her husband's native tongue. Since opening the company in 2004, she has worked with several local designers and homebuilders from her Fairfield showroom location. However, unlike some design companies, she also sells direct to the public.

One of her newest cabinetry lines, Sammy's Kitchen, offers a sleek, Euro design that's less expensive than traditional "frame" cabinets. "These are for people who want that urban contemporary look but don't want to spend \$15,000 for kitchen cabinets," she says, adding that contemporary cabinets can often be costly.

It is possible to install the cabinets the DIY way for around \$3,000. This includes a full setup with both wall and floor units. (Cabinets arrive in a flat pack that you assemble.) Unless you've read up on how to install cabinets, Savchenko recommends having a contractor install them. (Cooknee can do it for about \$1,000-\$1,500.)

Available in more than 40 different finishes and colors, the cabinets are comparable in look (and price) to Ikea cabinetry, Savchenko says. However, through Cooknee, you also get a designer's perspective to help you achieve the look you want.

JUST THE FACTS

WHAT: Sammy's Kitchen Cabinets from Cooknee

WHEN: Call to schedule an appointment.

WHERE: 9837 Harwood Court, Fairfield

PRICE: A complete kitchen full of cabinets runs about \$3,000-\$4,500

CONTACT: 513-623-3158, www.cooknee.com or www.sammyskitchen.com

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