
KITCHEN (HI)STORY

Kitchen party, kitchen talks or kitchen lingo. Why do we like to spend so much time in the kitchen?

The kitchen has always been the hub of the home. It vividly reflects social and cultural changes.

For centuries, kitchen work was heavy physical labour. A lack of servants, female employment and the industry affected the demand from 1900 onwards. Things started to change. As early as 1869, the American social worker Catherine Beecher studied the exact working procedures in the kitchen of a Mississippi steamer. In Europe, the Mitropa kitchen was considered exemplary. Here, everything was quickly accessible.

Relieving the burden on women and recognising their work were declared goals of the time.

The Frankfurt kitchen from 1926 is considered a prime example of efficiency and engineering. Its design as a fitted kitchen has been improved again and again in Europe and America and is still the most common type of kitchen today. Since the 1950s, fitted kitchens have moved into German households all across the country.

Current kitchen manufacturers claim that we can only be modern people if we have a new kitchen. The eat-in kitchens seen in the advertisements are chic and spacious. On average, kitchens in Germany today are no larger than 10 square metres - and as diverse as society itself. Looking through the keyhole, they provide insights into the everyday lives of their inhabitants. Who is actually standing in the kitchen today?