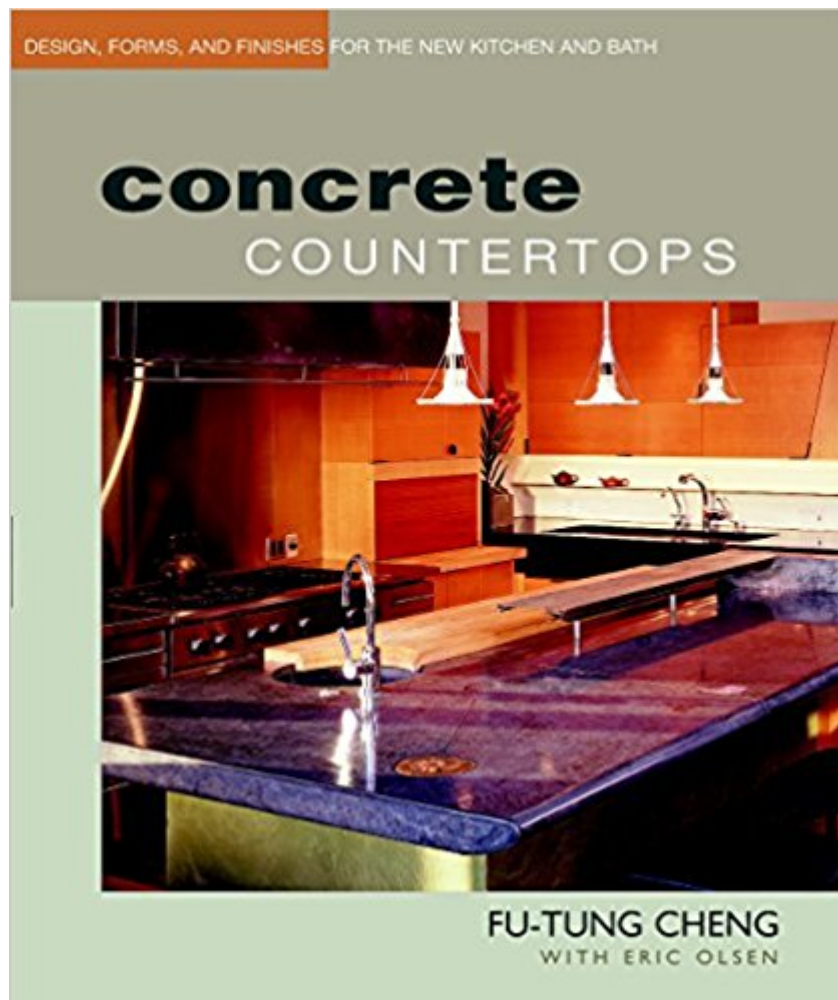




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Concrete Countertops: Design, Forms, And Finishes For The New Kitchen And Bath



Synopsis

This book reinvents the countertop with a single material: concrete. Concrete Countertops is an essential book for architects, homeowners and contractors who want to learn how to design, form, mix, pour, color, trowel, inlay and finish decorative concrete countertops. Homeowners will be inspired by the 350 color photographs that bring this exciting medium to life.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

At first, the idea of using concrete for kitchen countertops has the same appeal as using cardboard boxes for cabinetry or dining on the floor. Naysayers are in for a surprise as architect Cheng elevates this pedestrian building material to a new level, using it to create beautiful and functional countertops. They are a far cry from rough sidewalks, having polished surfaces that can be colored or have interesting objects cast into them. Cheng shows the entire process: design considerations, mold-making, concrete selection, installation, and maintenance, all using straightforward instructions supplemented by excellent illustrations. Showing an innovative use of a common and inexpensive material, this title should be part of comprehensive public library home improvement collections.

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"Concrete Countertops will give architects and builders the know how and confidence to draw and/or build what discerning homeowners are requesting in work surfaces these days. This is the

tool they've been looking for to help bring their clients' concrete dreams into concrete reality!"

--Sarah Susanka, author of *The Not So Big House* and *Creating the Not So Big House* "Over the past decade, the most requested article from our back issues has been about making concrete countertops. And more than anybody, Fu-Tung Cheng has been the innovator calling the public's attention to concrete as a material worthy of the finest interior detailing. This is the kind of book that will make you see a common material in a whole new way, and maybe even make you want to roll up your sleeves and play with it." Chuck Miller, Special Issues Editor, *Fine Homebuilding Magazine*

"This book celebrates the beauty of design drawn from nature.. Fu-Tung Cheng demonstrates that we can bring art and creativity back home in sustainable architecture that is both timeless and elegant." -----Alice Waters, *Chez Panisse* restaurant

If you are looking for an "idea" book, this one is excellent. If you are looking for a hands-on type of guide with step by step construction information, you may be better off with another resource. It seems that the author is more of an artist and an architect than a DIYer. This book, while visually appealing and inspirational, lacked some basic how-to information, such as detailed concrete recipes for various applications.

Although I have not looked at this book in quite some time, it was very influential to me while I began the journey to build my first concrete counters back in 2010. This book along with companion videos and the concrete exchange helped me to achieve an excellent product for a first timer. I completed 2 monolithic sinks for my bathrooms and 20 linear feet of kitchen counters in 4 sections. To do over I would reduce the thickness of the kitchen counters to 1.5" vs. 2.25" if only to lower the weight of each section in order to move them more easily. The key to precasting concrete is the table. Build yourself a solid and sturdy table that will limit deflection, this will save you the dreaded bowed affect for the finished product. Secondly, spend the time on the formwork as outlined in the procedures. Also, make sure to round the outside corners prior to pouring with a bead of sealant at the bottom corner of the formwork. This will eliminate the sharp edge which does not bode well for exposed concrete in a kitchen setting. The rest is your creative input. Inlays of polished rock, fossils, misc metal, ceramics, and wood can enhance the beauty of your concrete. Lastly, take the time to follow the rules for wet grinding the surface. Make sure to use the slurry to fill in small holes left after the first grinding. Here may be the most important part, matching the color with your slurry coat. Cheng made it easy by providing the premixed concrete color and slurry so that they match perfectly. The rest is up to you to decide the final polishing or shine you want on your counter. If you

take your time and plan we'll, the final product will look great. Concrete counters have that modern craftwork appeal that fits well with any contemporary kitchen or bathroom. Photos to follow.

Great informative book about some of the basic and advanced techniques of concrete countertop design and creation. Does not pay everything out step-by-step but is a great book to kinda get you moving in the right direction.

Not worth the money. Minimum instructions. This is a coffee table book not a step-by-step book.

I have never done a concrete countertop (and still haven't) notwithstanding this well-written, well represented book! I think that MY issue is simply ignorance. I am ignorant of concrete, the consistency necessary? How long it needs to cure? Where the forms can be purchased or made? Where the dyes can be purchased? And this book, although going into sufficient detail to give the novice like me some rudimentary understanding of the artistry that concrete may be utilized for, I was left with a profound sense of ignorance of the basics of concrete and have since simply googled "concrete," to learn the "concrete 101" basics of how the chemicals of concrete mix and come together. My wife and I constructed an island that is 13 1/2 feet x 5 feet. This odd shape would have required us to build the countertop in the kitchen, on the counter, using forms we could make or purchase. It would have required not less than 10-100lb sacks of expensive countertop concrete and we would have to have been able to have poured it all at once because it cannot be poured in sections, yet we would have to have made cuts in the concrete as it dried and cured for purposes of cracking. For "fillers" we realized that we were WAY over our heads with the various bonding, hardening, curing-lengthening, you name it, and for our first project, particularly of this magnitude, we did not feel comfortable even attempting this. However, having said that, the book is a beautifully illustrated, well-written book and definitely gives people like me hope that one day maybe even I could pour a countertop or floor that shined beautifully and creatively as those in the book!

Good read. Gets the creative juices flowing. Some techniques are now antiquated however. This could use an update. Newer materials are available and use of blue foam board make sink cut-outs and angles really easy. Still totally worth having for the DIYer.

Amazing ideas, good instructions

I think this is an excellent book!!!

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(National Kitchen & Bath Association (NKBA) Professional Library Series)
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