A Study on User Preferences and Kitchen Design Trends: The Case of Kayseri

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Abstract

Kitchens are a vital aspect of interior design, shaping furniture layout and overall aesthetics. This study, conducted in Kayseri, investigates the perspectives, design preferences, and attitudes of residential users toward kitchen furniture and decoration. The primary goal is to identify favored and disfavored design elements, providing valuable insights for designers and businesses in the kitchen furniture and interior design sector. The findings aim to guide user-centered design practices and support better decision-making. Data from 274 participants in Kayseri were collected through face-to-face surveys and analyzed using descriptive statistics. The results show that kitchens in the region are typically 18 m², with "I"-shaped and "L"-shaped layouts being the most common. Users prioritize functionality, size, and material quality over aesthetics. Composite marble is the most used countertop material, though granite and natural marble are gaining popularity. White dominates as the preferred color for ceilings, walls, floors, and cabinets, complemented by neutral tones. Ceramic and porcelain tiles are the favored flooring materials. Participants value easy cleaning, usability, and high-quality lighting, while the lack of wall lighting highlights a design gap. Users prefer kitchens that blend classic and modern elements, emphasizing practicality and comfort suited to Kayseri's regional needs.

Keywords: Kitchen design, kitchen furniture, interior layout, material selection, user preferences

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Kitchen

Kitchen literally means “a place where food is cooked” or “a place where cooking facilities are available” (Turkish Language Association, n.d.; Merriam-Webster, 2024). In interior design and decoration, the kitchen is defined as a living space. Kitchens are places with functions such as socializing, seclusion, meeting the needs necessary for carrying out daily activities, and utilizing the leisure time of individuals (Rolshoven, 2006). In the modern context, the kitchen is defined as a multifaceted space that encompasses various practices and meanings beyond food preparation, reflecting both material and symbolic significance (Meah, 2016). Therefore, kitchens are increasingly being defined as spaces with more social functions (Rolshoven, 2006).

In both historical and contemporary contexts, the kitchen goes beyond mere food preparation (Nunn & Bassnett, 2022). Kitchens have evolved from a space designed by architects to aesthetically-oriented spaces that reflect social changes and the personalities of their users over the last 100 years. In other words, kitchens in residential buildings have gained symbolic significance and have come to represent the lifestyles and personalities of their occupants through their aesthetic design and functionality. This shift shows that the kitchen is not only a physical space, but also a cultural and social construct. It fosters broad networks of social and economic interactions while establishing connections with local and global cultures (Siio et al., 2007). It is also a space where the values of intimacy, care and relationship emerge and offer new dreams for a more environmentally responsible future (Kim, 2022).

Alongside the change in the cultural and social structure of the kitchen, the role of the kitchen in the dwelling has physically evolved. This evolution has also influenced the size of the kitchen and how the user should carry out their daily tasks (Nowakowski, 2015). Initially, kitchens were seen as secondary spaces within dwellings, and limited attention was paid to their design (Rosselló, 2018). For instance, in the past, kitchens in Europe and the United States were often located in the basement or outbuilding of dwellings, hidden from sight, unappealing, and poorly ventilated (Kinchin & O'Connor, 2011). However, as social norms evolved, kitchens evolved from purely functional workspaces to central architectural focal points with social qualities (Bech-Danielsen, 2012). Especially towards the end of the 19th century, the kitchen became a central concern of modernism. The evolution of kitchen typologies, shapes and locations was influenced by feminist movements, globalization and technological advances. These influences transformed kitchens into a testing ground for new materials and technologies. In the past century, the kitchen has undergone more aesthetic and technological innovation than any other room in modern dwellings (Kinchin & O'Connor, 2011). Scientific studies on kitchen design emphasize the importance of considering the kitchen as a central unit in home architecture and ensuring that it meets the needs of a typical family economically and efficiently (Pejic et al., 2019).

1.2. Conceptual Framework

Today, kitchens have become elegant living spaces that combine efficiency and contemporary design with traditional comfort, meeting both practical and aesthetic needs. In this context, there are various design factors that affect kitchen design. These factors include aesthetics, function, ergonomics, lighting and ventilation, materials, technology, use and user characteristics. Among these, aesthetics stands out as the most prominent factor. Aesthetics

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in kitchen design refers to a multifaceted concept that combines functionality, visual appeal and user preferences to create a harmonious and efficient space. When it comes to aesthetics, the first concepts that come to mind are style and color. Interior design styles influence kitchen functionality and aesthetics, shaping how it serves users and appeals to their senses. Styles also influence lighting, equipment placement and layout, which are crucial to efficiently meeting a family's needs (Kim, 2022; Laver, 2022). From an aesthetic perspective, interior design styles contribute to the visual and emotional appeal of the kitchen. Eclectic and Country French designs score highly for their aesthetic appeal, demonstrating how certain styles can enhance the beauty and livability of a kitchen space (Lin et al., 2023).

The choice of color can greatly influence the ambience of the space, as research shows the important role of color in shaping perceptions and emotions to create the desired mood. Using theories such as Kobayashi's cognitive-based color theory can help to develop harmonious color schemes that evoke certain emotions or lifestyles. Similarly, such theories can guide the design of kitchen spaces that promote particular atmospheres (Casales-Garcia et al., 2020). Various scientific studies highlight the importance of lighting and equipment arrangement in kitchen design, as strategic color choices enhance visibility and efficiency in the workspace (Laver, 2022). Furthermore, the layout and cabinet design of a kitchen are influenced by color, affecting the overall ambiance and usability of the space (Han, 2006). The functionality of a kitchen, including its organization, ease of use and efficiency, is deeply influenced by design choices. Creating a functional kitchen requires combining scientific planning, aesthetic considerations, and practical application. Since the kitchen is considered the center of the home, its design and arrangement should be in harmony with the overall architectural plan while effectively meeting the requirements of a standard family (Laver, 2022).

Factors such as lighting, glare, clutter and seating affect both the functionality in kitchen design and the efficiency of movement in the kitchen, which is linked to the correct planning of important areas such as cooking, cleaning and storage (Chaudhury et al., 2017). Lighting in kitchen design impacts the environment, activities, and functionality. Lighting constraints should be taken into account when planning furniture arrangement. Glare should be minimized through appropriate light distribution, and task performance and safety should be enhanced (Vitsas et al., 2020). Another important factor in kitchen design is ventilation. Proper kitchen ventilation is important for good indoor air quality and thermal comfort. An ideal kitchen system should have fresh air intakes, exhaust fans and purification components (Lin et al., 2023).

It is necessary to improve ergonomics, comfort, efficiency and safety in kitchen design to reduce health risks such as muscle pain and fatigue in users and to prevent back discomfort and musculoskeletal problems. Additionally, the heights of tables and countertops should be adjusted according to users' body proportions (Putri et al., 2024). This is crucial in avoiding inefficient workflows and wasting extra time and effort on cooking and cleaning (Bhatia et al., 2023). The choice of materials plays a crucial role in determining the aesthetic impact of a kitchen's design. The materials used in kitchen design affect both visual and tactile aspects, especially the surfaces of elements such as countertops and cabinets (Weninger et al., 2024). In addition, both subjective qualities such as perceived quality and modernity, and objective qualities such as durability and performance influence the choice of materials (Dumitrescu, 2022).

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The type of use and user characteristics have a significant impact on kitchen design. This is because there are a variety of needs and preferences that need to be addressed to create functional and enjoyable kitchen environments for different user groups. By understanding user characteristics and facilitating natural interactions, designers can create functional and enjoyable kitchen spaces. Finally, social changes and technological developments have a great impact on kitchen design. Kitchens are no longer just utilitarian, but have become multifunctional spaces in modern homes. Various kitchen models have emerged to adapt to changing user needs, such as “laboratory” and multifunctional designs (Astorga de Ita, 2023). Technology helps various small kitchen designs to adapt to different lifestyles (Nowakowski, 2015). There is a trend towards technological innovation in kitchens, with electronics brands focusing on kitchen design, potentially leading to more advanced and user-friendly home appliances (Kim, 2022).

1.3. Research Objective

This study explores the perceptions and preferences of homeowners in Kayseri regarding kitchen furniture and interior design. It examines which features are valued for their functionality, ergonomics, and aesthetic appeal, as well as identifying elements that are less favored. By analyzing how these design aspects influence daily life and user satisfaction, the research aims to provide meaningful insights for designers and businesses in the kitchen furniture and interior design industry. The ultimate goal is to develop innovative, user-focused solutions that seamlessly combine functionality with visual appeal, while also serving as a guide for researchers and designers in future studies.

2. METHODOLOGY

This methodology offers a structured and thorough approach to understanding the preferences of residential users in Kayseri, delivering valuable insights to guide the kitchen furniture and interior design industry.

2.1. Study Design and Sample Selection

A detailed questionnaire was designed and administered through face-to-face surveys in 2024. The target population was based on data from the Turkish Statistical Institute's (TUIK) *2021 Building and Housing Qualifications Survey* (Turkish Statistical Institute, 2022) which reported a total of 424,008 households in Kayseri. At first, the sample size was estimated to be 124 participants based on a standard formula. The formula used to determine the sample size is shown below (Yıldırım et al., 2023; Gürleyen, 2005). However, to enhance the validity and comprehensiveness of the findings, the sample size was increased to encompass 274 participants. Data validity and reliability were carefully checked, ensuring that all collected responses contributed to the accuracy of the dataset.

Sample size formula given below adapted from Yıldırım et al. (2023) and Gürleyen (2005).

$$n = \frac{N.Z^2.P.Q}{N.D^2 + Z^2.P.Q}.$$

n	: Sample size	Q=1-P	: The probability that the characteristic to be measured is not present in the main mass
N	: Size of the main population	D	: Accepted sampling error (taken as 3%)
Z	: Confidence coefficient (1.96 for 95%)	P	: The probability that the characteristic to be measured is present in the society (taken as 97%)

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2.2. Questionnaire Structure

The questionnaire was divided into four primary sections. The first section, Demographic Information, collected personal details from participants along with key characteristics of their residences. The second section, kitchen interior elements, focused on various aspects of kitchen design, including ceilings, floors, and walls. The third section, current furniture, explored the design, materials, and functionality of the kitchen furniture that participants were currently using. Lastly, the user satisfaction and preferences section assessed participants' satisfaction with their kitchen elements, as well as their preferences regarding colors, styles, and ideal kitchen concepts.

2.3. Data Analysis

The data obtained from the surveys were analyzed using SPSS statistical software. To summarize the data, basic statistical methods such as frequency distributions and averages were applied. To evaluate the consistency of the responses related to user satisfaction and kitchen design elements, Cronbach's Alpha was used to check reliability. The results were then summarized in tables and graphs for clearer and more accessible interpretation.

2.4. Participant Criteria

The study included participants aged 18 and older who resided in households with kitchens. It focuses particularly on individuals who are homeowners. Voluntary participation was a key aspect, ensuring an ethical and inclusive approach. By focusing on the Kayseri city center, the research minimized logistical complexities, ensuring practical and reliable implementation of the study.

3. FINDINGS

3.1. Findings about the User and the Residence

In this study, various demographic characteristics of the respondents, as well as some features of the dwellings they reside in, were examined. The data reveals that 64.8% of the individuals surveyed are female, while 35.2% are male. A significant proportion of the respondents (88.7%) live in the urban center areas of Kayseri, such as Melikgazi (40.1%), Kocasinan (24.5%), and Talas (23%), while the remainder reside in more remote districts. Among the respondents, 72.6% are homeowners and 27.4% are renters. Furthermore, 72.2% of these individuals are married with children, while the rest are either married without children (19%) or single (8.8%). Regarding the types of dwellings, 84.7% were classified as apartments and 15.3% as detached houses. Specifically, 72.6% of the respondents live in dwellings ranging from 101 to 200 m^2 in size, 14.6% reside in dwellings between 201 and 300 m^2, and 9.9% live in dwellings with kitchens smaller than 10 m^2. The average kitchen size across all dwellings analyzed in the survey is 18 m^2.

3.2. Kitchen Usage Trends in Kayseri Residences

The findings reveal that most kitchens in the study (69.3%) range in size from 11 to 20 m^2 and predominantly have a rectangular layout (67.9%). The kitchens analyzed are equipped with windows (94.1%), doors (81.9%), and balconies (83.7%), but there is very little pantry space (18%). Additionally, heating in these kitchens is primarily provided through panel radiators (91.8%) and combination boiler systems (67.7%), while air conditioning is

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used to a lesser extent (9.1%) for temperature control. Ventilation shafts (69%) are commonly incorporated into kitchens to eliminate cooking odors. These findings indicate that open kitchen layouts are less preferred in Kayseri. There is also limited use of air conditioning due to the region's continental climate, with panel radiators being more common than alternative heating methods. The widespread use of panel radiators and combination boiler systems has a significant impact on kitchen design.

3.3. Design Preferences for Walls, Floors, and Ceilings in Kitchen Interiors

The existing features of interior elements such as walls, floors, and ceilings in kitchens were examined in detail, with a specific focus on kitchens located in Kayseri. The analysis revealed notable trends in material usage, color preferences, and lighting elements. On kitchen walls, wall paint was the most common application (81%), followed by wall tiles made of ceramic or porcelain (10.2%) (Fig. 1a). According to Dong (2014), the main color in kitchen interiors typically accounts for over 60% of the space and serves as a foundation for selecting complementary accessories and colors, making it a critical element in interior design. The findings indicated that white is the most preferred main color for walls due to its compatibility with other tones and its ability to enhance light and space. White was followed by shades of brown and yellow as popular choices. Secondary colors, such as gray, yellow, and black, were often used to complement the main color (Fig. 1b). Additionally, Kim (2022) highlights that neutral tones like white, beige, and gray are common in kitchens for their timeless aesthetic and ability to make compact spaces feel larger. However, wall-mounted lighting elements such as sconces were notably absent in 72.3% of the kitchens examined in Kayseri.

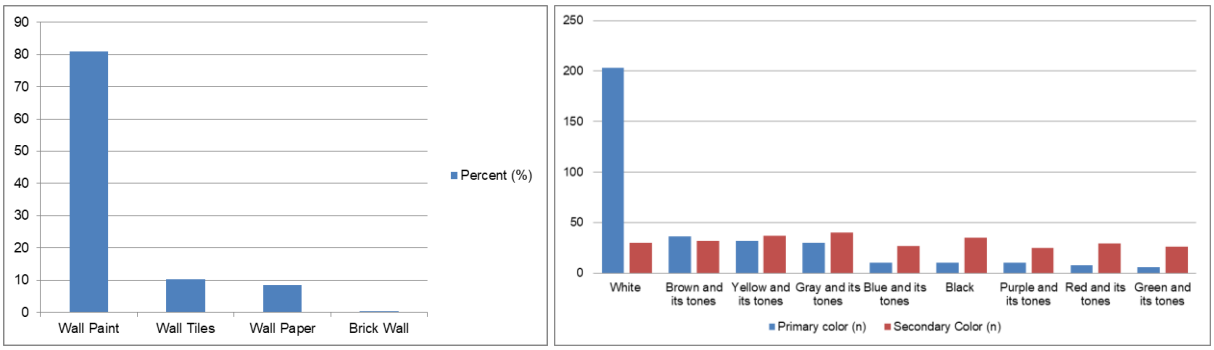

Figure 1. a) Most used material on kitchen walls (left), b) The most used colours on kitchen walls (right) (Created by author, 2024)

Kitchen floors were also thoroughly analyzed. Ceramic and porcelain tiles were the most commonly used materials (90.6%). Despite the kitchen being a wet area, 56.5% of participants reported having MDF parquet floors. Natural stone materials like marble were the second preferred choice (52.9%) (Fig. 2a). Regarding color preferences, white was identified as the dominant main color, followed by gray and brown (Fig. 2b). Secondary colors, such as yellow, brown, and gray shades, were used to create visual harmony. Popular floor tile sizes included 30x30 cm (34.7%), concrete floor tiles (23.7%), and 60x60 cm tiles (12%). Furthermore, carpets were commonly used as floor coverings (81%).

Ceilings in kitchens were predominantly finished with ceiling-specific paints (87.1%), and white was again the most preferred main color, followed by gray. Lighting solutions varied, with pendant lighting being the most common choice (71.9%), followed by direct light

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bulbs without decorative fixtures (19.7%) and LED lighting (18.2%). These findings highlight the preference for practical yet aesthetically pleasing lighting in kitchen spaces.

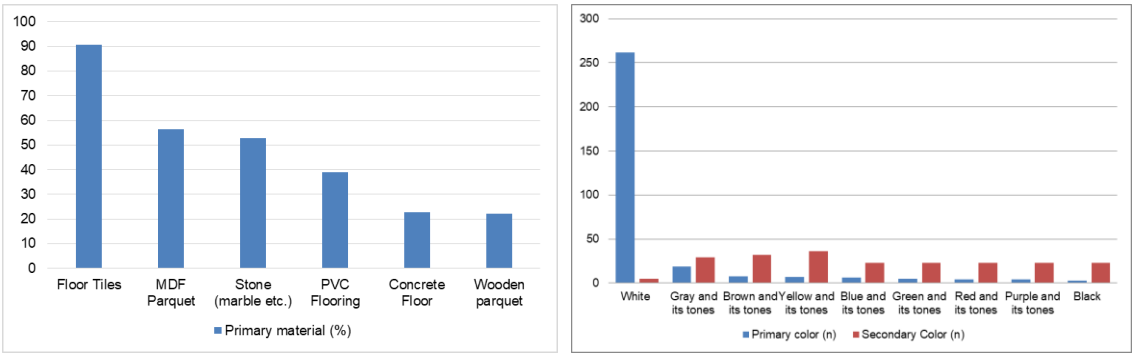

Figure 2. a) Most used material on kitchen floors (left), b) The most used colors on kitchen floors (right) (Created by author, 2024)

In summary, the section highlights key trends observed in kitchens in Kayseri. White was the most dominant main color across walls, floors, and ceilings, complemented by neutral tones for their timeless versatility. Ceramic and porcelain tiles were the leading flooring materials, with 30x30 cm tiles being the most popular size. However, the lack of wall lighting in 72.3% of kitchens in Kayseri points to a notable design gap. Overall, the findings reveal a preference for functional, cohesive, and visually appealing kitchen designs specific to the region.

3.4. Equipment Analyzing Kitchen Design Elements, Including Layouts, Materials, And Colors

This section discusses kitchen layouts, cabinet types, countertops, wall cladding materials between countertops and upper cabinets, cabinet colors, and the overall state of kitchen furniture.

The findings reveal that most kitchens in these interiors feature I-shaped layouts (59.6%), also referred to as one-wall or single-wall kitchens, followed by L-shaped layouts (33%) (Fig. 3a). Yıldırım and Hacıbaloğlu (2000) similarly found that the single-wall kitchen layout is the most common in residential spaces, with a preference rate of 91%. The types of cabinets in these kitchens were also analyzed. Most Kayseri kitchens include upper cabinets (100%) and lower cupboards (99.3%), while kitchen islands are the least common (16.7%) (Fig. 3b).The study also examined the existing kitchen countertops and the wall cladding materials between countertops and upper cabinets in kitchens located in Kayseri. Among the countertops, artificial marble (composite marble) was the most common (35.4%), followed by granite (33.2%) and marble (20.4%) (Fig. 4a). Composite marble, known as mermerit in the Turkish market, is a polyester-based granular material made by melting and pulverizing stones like calcite and dolomite, then solidifying them with color pigments and polyester adhesive. This material is resistant to cracking, breaking, and high temperatures exceeding 220°C (Karaman et al., 2016).

Yıldırım et al. (2023) found that while users prefer marble and granite countertops, quartz-based stone, ceramic, and acrylic countertops are the least favored. The preference for composite marble and laminate countertops is mainly due to their affordability (Yıldırım et al., 2023). The most common wall cladding materials between countertops and upper cabinets in the examined Kayseri kitchens are tiles (32.5%), processed stone (e.g., marble or granite) (36.9%), and mosaic materials (stone, glass, etc.) (24.8%).

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The study also analyzed cabinet colors in these kitchens in Kayseri. White is the dominant main color, followed by shades of brown and gray (Fig. 4b). For secondary colors, used to complement the main color, brown, gray, and yellow shades are the most popular. Finally, the furniture in these kitchens in Kayseri was evaluated. Tables (87.6%) and chairs (83.9%) are the most common, while coffee tables are the least frequent (6.9%) (Fig. 5a).

In summary, the section reveals that kitchens in Kayseri predominantly feature I- and L-shaped layouts. Upper and lower cabinets are standard, while kitchen islands are quite rare. Composite marble is the most commonly preferred countertop material, while tiles are the dominant choice for wall cladding. White is the prevailing cabinet color, with tables and chairs being widely used, whereas coffee tables are rarely preferred.

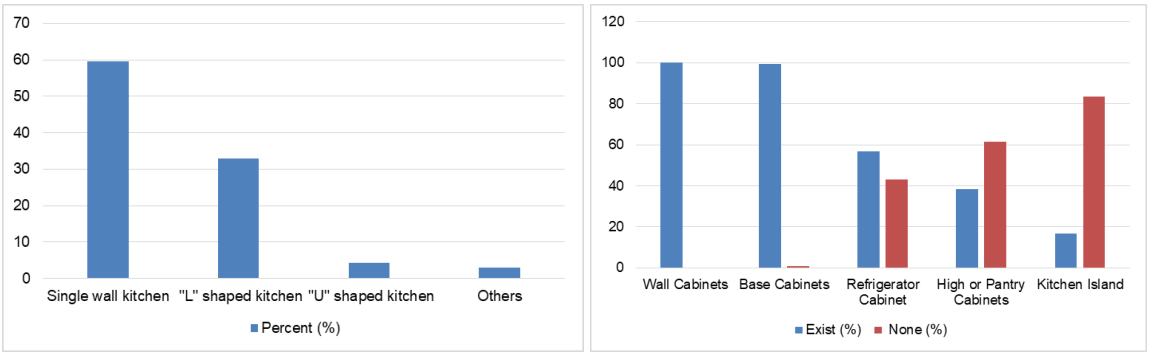

Figure 3. a) Kitchen types (left), b) Kitchen cabinet types (right) (Created by author, 2024)

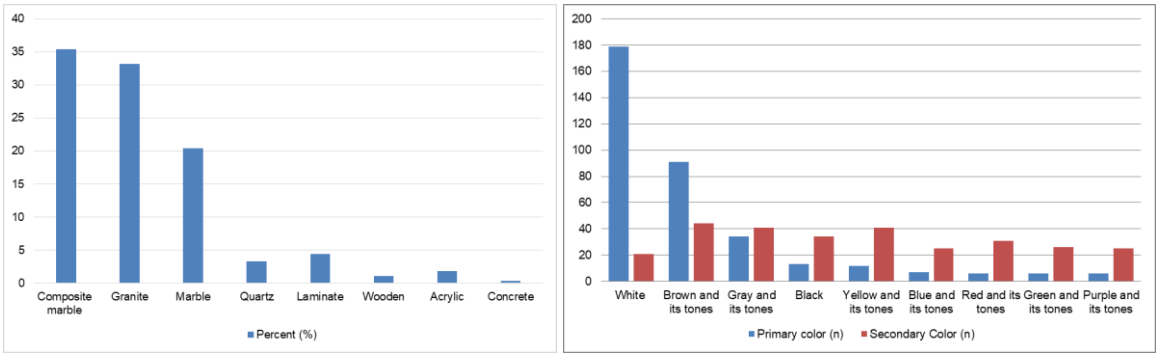

Figure 4. a) Kitchen countertop types (left), b) Kitchen cabinet colors (right) (Created by author, 2024)

3.5. Users' Satisfaction Levels with Kitchen Interiors and Furniture

A satisfaction analysis was conducted on the interiors and furnishings of kitchens in Kayseri as part of the study. The findings revealed that a significant portion of participants were satisfied with the general kitchen layout (77.7%) and its overall usability (76.9%). Additionally, users reported the highest satisfaction with features such as easy cleaning (90.1%), heating (83.9%), and natural lighting (80.2%). These results highlight that heating (both artificial and natural) and lighting are critical considerations for users when selecting a home, especially in regions with continental climates like Kayseri (Fig. 5b).

Participants were additionally requested to assess the furniture, countertops, sinks, and faucets within their kitchens, considering factors such as material quality, usability, volume, dimensions, functionality, and ease of cleaning. Regarding kitchen furniture, users expressed the greatest satisfaction with cleanability (81%), followed by usability (80.6%), width (75.8%), material quality (69.6%), and aesthetic features (61.2%). Similarly, the existing kitchen countertops received high satisfaction ratings for height (94.5%), usefulness (83.2%), material quality (73.6%), and aesthetics (67.8%).

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The analysis further revealed that users were satisfied with the sinks and faucets in their kitchens. For sinks, users rated width (71.8%), usefulness (69.6%), material quality (67.4%), and aesthetic features (58.2%) positively. Likewise, for faucets, satisfaction was observed with size (75.1%), usefulness (73.3%), material quality (71.4%), and aesthetic features (64.5%). These findings emphasize the importance of functionality and quality in kitchen elements for overall user satisfaction.

In conclusion, the study highlights that users in Kayseri are particularly satisfied with features such as easy cleaning, overall usability, and the quality of both natural and artificial lighting in their kitchens. Additionally, functional attributes like the height, width, and material quality of key kitchen elements, including countertops, sinks, and faucets, play a crucial role in shaping user satisfaction. These findings underscore the importance of integrating practicality and comfort into kitchen design, especially in regions that experience challenging climatic conditions.

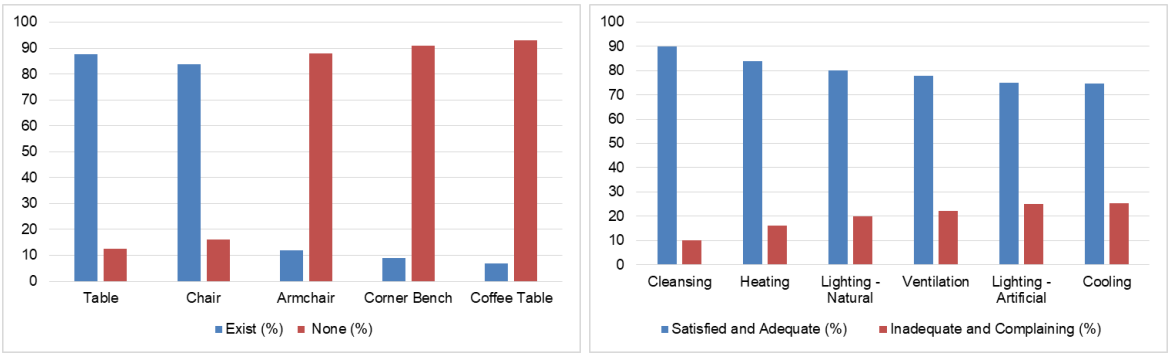

Figure 5. a) Type of kitchen furniture (left), b) Satisfaction status for interior elements (right) (Created by author, 2024)

3.6. Key Factors Influencing Ideal Kitchen Design

This study was conducted in Kayseri, Türkiye, focusing on kitchen designs and participants' preferences for their ideal kitchens. The research aimed to identify the key elements influencing kitchen design, the current interior styles of participants' kitchens, and the styles and colors they envisioned for their ideal kitchens.

Participants were asked various questions about the design features of their ideal kitchen. Specifically, they were questioned about the most influential elements in shaping a kitchen's design. According to the findings, the most significant elements were furniture (67.4%), lighting (59.4%), flooring (55.7%), walls (49.5%), coverings such as carpets and rugs (44%), decorative accessories (43.2%), and curtains (37.4%) (Fig. 6).

The study also explored participants' current kitchen interior styles and the styles they envisioned for their ideal kitchens. The most common existing styles were classical and simple (77.4%), classical-modern and simple (67.5%), and classical-modern and elegant (57.6%). In contrast, participants' ideal kitchens were primarily described as classical and elegant (55.3%), simple (51.5%), or modern and elegant (50.5%) (Fig. 7a).

Participants were further asked about their color preferences for creating an ideal kitchen. Main and secondary usage options were analyzed to identify dominant and complementary tones. The results revealed that white was the most preferred main color, followed by gray and brown tones. As secondary colors, gray, black, and yellow, along with their shades, were the most favored (Fig. 7b).

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In this section, the preferences of users in Kayseri regarding kitchen design were analyzed, revealing that furniture is the most influential element. Additionally, white was identified as the most preferred main color, and designs combining classical and modern elements, tailored to individual tastes, were found to be prioritized.

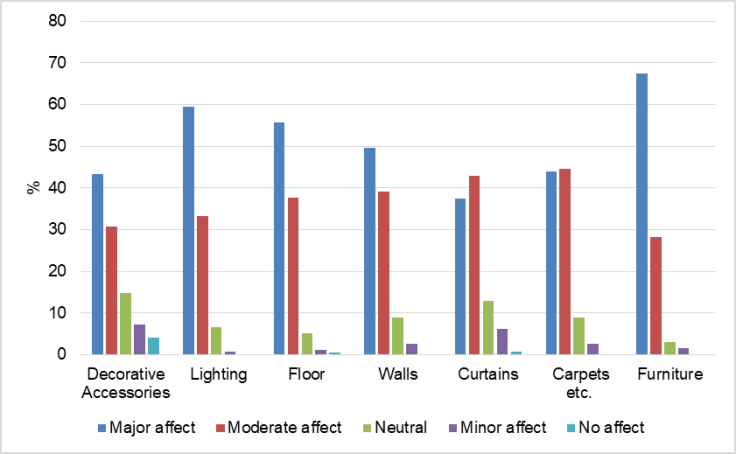

Figure 6. Key Factors that influence the ideal kitchen design (Created by author, 2024)

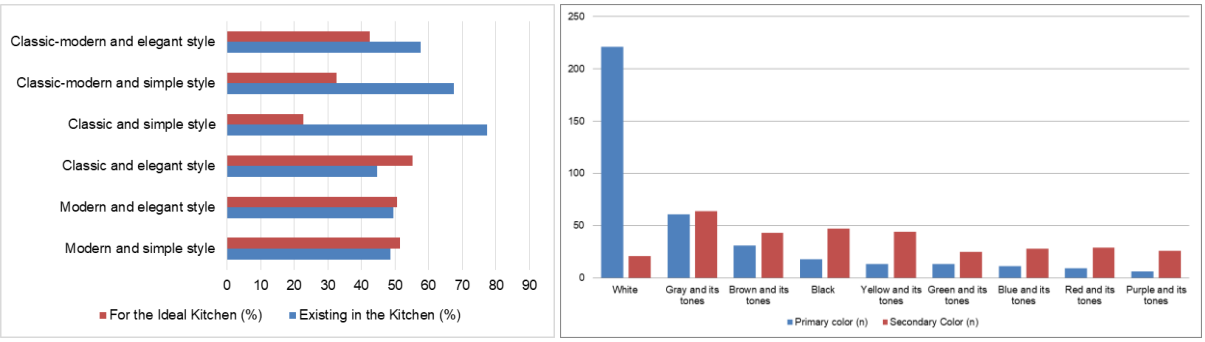

Figure 7. a) Interior style of the kitchen (left), b) The most preferred colors for the ideal kitchen design (right) (Created by author, 2024)

3.7. Ergonomic Evaluation of Dimensions of Kitchen Furniture

Within the scope of this research, an ergonomic evaluation of various kitchen furniture was conducted. Widely recognized references, including Neufert Architects' Data and Human Dimension and Interior Space: A Source Book of Design Reference Standards (Neufert, 2000; Panero & Zelnik, 1979), were used to establish standard dimension criteria. The findings of the study, based on data from these sources, are presented in Table 1.

The ergonomic findings obtained are summarized as follows:

- The dimensions of the upper kitchen cabinets vary in width. Therefore, only their height and depth were evaluated. On average, the cabinet heights are within the standards.
- The dimensions of the base kitchen cabinets vary in width. For this reason, only their height and depth were evaluated. On average, the cabinet depths comply with the standards.
- The dimensions of the tall/high kitchen cabinets vary in width. However, their height and depth conform to the standards.

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- Kitchen refrigerator units, categorized as tall/high cabinets, also show variations in width. Nonetheless, their height complies with the standards.
- Countertop dimensions vary in width, but their heights are within the standards.
- The chair dimensions fall within the standards in terms of width, and their average height and depth are also very close to the standards.
- The depths of the seats comply with the standards.
- All dimensions of the tables are within the standards.
- The heights of the coffee tables exceed the standard range.

Table 1. Ergonomic evaluation of the dimensions of kitchen furniture (Created by author, 2024)

Furniture Type		Reference Dimension	Dimension X	N	Furniture Type		Reference Dimension	Dimension X	N
Kitchen m²		-	18	274					
Wall Cabinets	H	O-P: 35/65/100 T-P: 50/65/100	77.6	274	Chair	H	40.6-43.2	45.5	19
	W	O-P: 20-120 T-P: 70-150	225.2	274		W	45 (min)	45.7	19
	D	35	40	274		D	45.7-61	42.8	19
Base Cabinets	H	85	76.3	270	Armchair	H	35.6-43.2	48.8	33
	W	O-P: 20-60 T-P: 70-150	212.9	270		W	66 (min)	-	33
	D	60	60.4	270		D	53,3-61 (min)	49.5	33
High or Pantry Cabinets	H	203	181.5	99	Table	H	73.7-76.2	75.1	240
	W	45-60	71.5	99		W	76,2 (min)	118.4	240
	D	40-60	51.3	99		D	76,2 (min)	78.9	240
Refrigerator Cabinet	H	-	200.8	148	Coffee Table	H	30.5-40.6	50.6	230
	W	-	-	148		W	varies	58	230
	D	-	74.11	148		D	varies	52.2	230
Kitchen Countertop	H	85-92	86.7	274	Corner Bench	H	-	51.7	25
	W	varies	265.3	274		W	-	112	25
	D	60	66.2	274		D	-	53.2	25

X: Arithmetic Mean, N: Sum of Frequencies, H: Height (cm), W: width (cm), D: Depth (cm), O-P: one-piece, T-P: two-piece

4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The results of this research in Kayseri are listed below;

This study has revealed significant findings regarding kitchen designs in Kayseri. Consumers in Kayseri focus more on functionality, dimensions, and material quality when selecting kitchen products, rather than aesthetics. While aesthetic elements are important, it is clear that designers should primarily prioritize functional solutions and the use of high-quality materials. Additionally, aesthetic features should be integrated in a balanced manner, in line with users' personal preferences.

Kitchens in Kayseri are generally designed in I- and L-shaped layouts, with standard cabinets and panel radiators frequently used. These elements can sometimes disrupt the aesthetic flow. Designers should explore storage solutions that can conceal radiators and boilers, creating a more seamless aesthetic. Furthermore, careful space planning that balances both functionality and design is essential to create a kitchen that is both practical and visually appealing.

In terms of kitchen furniture, white remains the dominant color, and the furniture tends to have standard dimensions. However, variations in coffee table heights present an

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opportunity for designers to offer innovative solutions. Adjustable furniture options tailored to users' needs could provide greater ergonomic comfort. Combining white with contrasting colors, such as pastel tones or wooden textures, can add warmth and visual interest to the space.

Lighting is another area where Kayseri kitchens are lacking, with 72.3% of kitchens lacking wall lighting. This represents a significant gap in meeting both functional and atmospheric lighting needs. Designers should address this gap by incorporating wall lighting solutions that enhance both usability and the ambiance of the kitchen.

While classic kitchen designs dominate in Kayseri, modern styles also appeal to some consumers. The combination of these two styles could cater to a broader range of consumer preferences. Additionally, carpets are a popular flooring choice in kitchens, and there is a demand for easy-to-clean materials. Carpet manufacturers could address this need by developing kitchen-specific carpets made from materials that are easy to clean and suitable for kitchen environments.

In conclusion, designers and manufacturers should develop kitchen designs that combine the best of both classical and modern styles, creating spaces that are both functional and aesthetically pleasing. Furthermore, the findings of this study could encourage similar research in other regions and contribute to a broader understanding of kitchen design preferences.

Ethics Committee Approval

Ethics committee approval for this study was obtained from the Ethics Committee of Kayseri University, with the decision dated "September 4, 2024" and numbered "E.110403."

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Unless otherwise noted, all figures and tables in this article were created by the authors on the specified dates.

Conflict of Interest and Responsibility

This article complies with research and publication ethics, and no conflict of interest exists. The authors are responsible for all views expressed and for obtaining legal permissions for visual materials used; the journal holds no responsibility in these matters.

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