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Today I'm going to talk about artificial intelligence and how it is starting to change kitchen design. I specifically wanted to focus on 2020 Design because that is the main software I use at work. I use it basically every day to take customer ideas and measurements and turn them into actual designs. AI is becoming another part of that process, especially because customers are starting to use it before they even come in to meet with a designer.

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Before AI became as popular as it is now, this was pretty much the normal process I followed. I would go out and measure the space and make my field notes and sketches. Then I would bring everything into 2020 Design, create the layout, and eventually make a 3D rendering for the customer. Once everything was approved, that design could actually be ordered and installed. So there were a lot of steps between a customer's original idea and the finished kitchen.

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The biggest thing AI has changed is really the starting point. Before, customers might come in with a Pinterest picture or just try to explain what they wanted. Now they can use AI to actually create an image of their idea before they even meet with me. I think that can be really helpful because it gives me a better idea of what they are picturing. But the important thing is that just because an AI image looks realistic doesn't mean it can actually be built that way.

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2020 Design is the main program I use to actually create my designs. I put the measurements of the room into the software and then work with real cabinet products, sizes, and finishes. I can also use it to create renderings, generate cabinetry and countertop estimates, and get the material list I need to place an order. So this program isn't just about making something look nice. I'm using the information in the design throughout the actual project.

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I also wanted to make sure this wasn't just something I was noticing personally at work. Research shows that people are actually starting to use AI for home design. In this survey, 49% of Americans surveyed said they had already used AI for an interior design project, and 32% identified the kitchen as a room where they would want to use AI. So customers are becoming more comfortable using these tools to visualize their spaces before working with a professional

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This is a real example that shows the difference really well. The picture on the left is an AI image that a customer brought to me, and the one on the right is the basic rendering I created in 2020 Design. Their image was actually really helpful because I could immediately see things they liked, like the glass cabinets, stacked cabinets, colors, door style, and the overall layout they were imagining.

But then I had to take that idea and figure out how it would actually work. I had to consider things like spacing, clearances, ceiling height, cabinet depths, molding, doors, and windows. So I think this shows that AI is really good for creating the vision, but professional design is what determines how that vision can actually work

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These statistics were really interesting to me because they show how quickly AI is becoming normal for designers. Ninety-one percent of designers use AI for design tasks weekly, 75% use it daily, and 47.5% are saving four or more hours a week by using it.

To me, that doesn't mean designers are becoming less important. I think it means our role is changing. If AI can make certain parts of the process faster, then we can spend more time checking the details, communicating with customers, solving problems, and making sure the design actually works.

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For the future, I don't really see AI replacing professional designers. I think all of these tools are going to start working together. This research found that 86% of architects and designers using AI say it saves them time, so there is obviously a benefit to using it.

Programs like Render can help create realistic visuals faster, and then 2020 Design can be used for the actual measurements, products, pricing, and technical details.

But I also think the human relationship is a really important part of this. When I'm working with a customer, I'm getting to know them, asking questions, understanding how they use their space, and helping them make decisions. AI can't really replace that relationship or the trust between the customer and designer.

So for me, the future isn't AI versus designers. It's figuring out how we can use AI to make our jobs easier without losing the knowledge and human connection that make a design actually work for that customer.

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