



INGENIOUS SOLUTION

To make a small kitchen in Chevy Chase light and accessible, designer Meghan Browne first removed a wall separating the kitchen and family room, flooding both spaces with natural light. She then added a door to the dining room from the kitchen's prep area for better flow between spaces. A cleverly planned layout concentrated the sink, dishwasher, double ovens and refrigerator along one wall—where Browne was able to create more functional storage by placing the sink off-center beneath the window to accommodate a larger lower-level cabinet.

Crisp, white floor-to-ceiling cabinetry by Decor is combined with a glazed ceramic subway-tile backsplash and honed Calacatta marble countertops to create a clean-lined, transitional look. Along one wall, the cabinetry is stained dark with frosted-glass doors that display dishware and decorative objects. An island with an extra-thick countertop provides space to eat as well as work, while airy, geometric pendants add a final, modern touch.



THE DETAILS ■ KITCHEN DESIGN: Meghan Browne, Jennifer Gilmer Kitchen & Bath, Ltd., Chevy Chase, Maryland. CONSTRUCTION: Paul Lappas, Lappas Construction Co., Bethesda, Maryland. CABINETRY: decorcabinets.com. APPLIANCES: mieleusa.com, bosch-home.com. COUNTERTOPS: classicgranitemarble.com. BACKSPLASH: architecturalceramics.com. PHOTOGRAPHY: Bob Narod.



LIVING LARGE

When the owner of an open-plan, garden-level condo in Logan Circle tapped designer Sarah Turner to renovate his kitchen, she conceived a functional space that would feel like a seamless extension of the adjacent living room. A paneled pantry door with traditional trim was replaced with a slab door painted to match the wall so that the adjacent spaces would flow together visually. An integrated Sub-Zero refrigerator-freezer, a paneled dishwasher and a sink made of the same Caesarstone as the countertops all contribute to the seamless look.

Turner selected Zonavita cabinetry in warm wood tones and a flat-fronted modern style that complements the living area nearby; the cabinets are larger than their predecessors, with better storage. The island countertop with waterfall ends provides a comfortable perch, furnished with rattan stools. Double ovens, a built-in Miele espresso machine and a U-Line wine fridge make entertaining easy.



THE DETAILS ■ KITCHEN DESIGN: Sarah Turner, Jennifer Gilmer Kitchen & Bath, Ltd., Chevy Chase, Maryland. CONTRACTOR: Nolan Brook, Brook Custom Remodeling, Oakton, Virginia. CABINETRY: zonavita.com. APPLIANCES: subzero-wolf.com, mieleusa.com, u-line.com, bosch-home.com. COUNTERTOPS: caesarstoneus.com. BACKSPLASH: Limestone mosaic through architecturalceramics.com. PHOTOGRAPHY: Bob Narod.

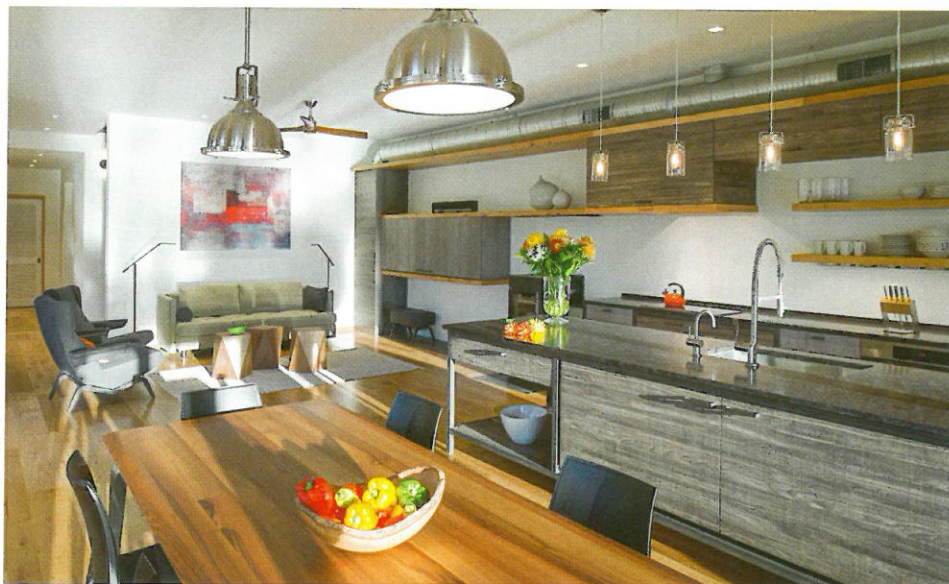


MODERN FARMHOUSE

Clients with a home on a canal near Rehoboth Beach hired Jennifer Gilmer to design a kitchen that would take advantage of water views. Working with architect Amy Gardner, who designed the home, Gilmer created a welcoming space with an industrial edge and a “modern farmhouse” aesthetic. At the clients’ request, she emphasized sustainability in her design choices.

The unique material palette combines two styles of cabinets. One resembles horizontal-grain, textured barn wood and the other smooth, vertical-grain gray wood—both are made of high-pressure melamine. The island and cooktop console, framed in hot-rolled steel, convey the look of furniture; countertops are made of granite. Strips of fir border the tops and bottoms of the cabinets and floating fir shelves display dishware. The cabinet wall continues into a sitting area where a TV is concealed behind a sliding door.

Exposed ductwork at ceiling level adds to the kitchen’s modern, industrial style.



THE DETAILS ■ KITCHEN DESIGN: Jennifer Gilmer, CKD, Jennifer Gilmer Kitchen & Bath, Ltd., Chevy Chase, Maryland. ARCHITECTURE: Amy Gardner, FAIA, LEED AP, Gardner Mohr Architects, Silver Spring, Maryland. CONTRACTOR: Beachwood, Inc., Showell, Maryland. CABINETRY: artcraftkitchens.com. COUNTERTOPS & BACKSPLASH: inhome.com. APPLIANCES: mieleusa.com, rangecraft.com. PHOTOGRAPHY: John Cole.



TIMELESS APPEAL

The owners of a turn-of-the-century row house in Georgetown tapped architect Christian Zapatka to renovate their kitchen and designer Sarah Turner to bring it into the 21st century. Zapatka facilitated circulation between the kitchen, the living area at the front of the house and the patio in back while Turner reorganized the layout of the kitchen, updating cabinetry and finishes.

The clients were downsizing from a large kitchen in a suburban home and did not want to compromise on storage. Turner incorporated tray bases, drawer dividers and spice and cutlery inserts to optimize functionality. Moving the cooktop to the island increased countertop space. Columns of stainless steel above the fridge and double ovens frame wood cabinetry and floating shelves that display items picked up by the owners while traveling.

An intricately patterned, handmade tile backsplash is a striking focal point; its colors match the slate-blue island. Soapstone countertops have timeless appeal.



THE DETAILS ■ KITCHEN DESIGN: Sarah Turner, Jennifer Gilmer Kitchen & Bath, Ltd., Chevy Chase, Maryland. RENOVATION ARCHITECTURE: Christian Zapatka, AIA, Christian Zapatka Architect, PLLC, Washington, DC. CONTRACTOR: Trust Building Service, Rockville, Maryland. CABINETRY: qcci.com. COUNTERTOPS: avantimarblegranite.com. BACKSPLASH: walkerzanger.com through architecturalceramics.com. APPLIANCES: subzero-wolf.com, bosch-home.com. PHOTOGRAPHY: Bob Narod.



CRISP + CONTEMPORARY

Paul Bentham was hired to overhaul a dated Northwest DC kitchen with an open floor plan and a clean, contemporary look. Bentham removed a wall between the living area and kitchen, and took out a peninsula that awkwardly separated the kitchen from the dining area. Sliding patio doors now flank a floor-to-ceiling pantry and a four-foot-wide island with waterfall counters provides additional storage and a place for the sink.

A custom oak table extends from one end of the island, “replacing the predictable table and chairs,” Bentham says. Stained dark to match the floors, the table measures 36 by 100 inches and had to be lifted in through the patio doors by crane.

Torquay quartz countertops by Cambria and white cabinetry create a crisp contrast to the dark wood of the table. Playful translucent pendant lights—controlled by an iPad app—can change colors to suit the mood of the moment.



THE DETAILS ■ KITCHEN DESIGN: Paul Bentham, Jennifer Gilmer Kitchen & Bath, Ltd., Chevy Chase, Maryland. CONTRACTOR: Marios Nicolaou, Marnic Contractors, Washington, DC. CABINETRY: decorcabinets.com. COUNTERTOPS & BACKSPLASH: cambriausa.com. WOOD TABLE: glumber.com. APPLIANCES: Owned by client. LIGHTING: Le Klint Pendants through lumens.com. PHOTOGRAPHY: Bob Narod.



STRONG REFLECTION

Columbia, Maryland, homeowners tapped designer Paul Bentham to transform a closed-off kitchen into an open, contemporary space that would better fit their needs. "The wife is an avid baker and hostess," Bentham says. "An island with lots of prep space was mandatory."

The new floor plan opened the kitchen up and added square footage by incorporating a small dining room into the footprint. A dual-level island boasts an auxiliary sink and storage beneath a Calacatta Nuvo quartz waterfall countertop; the island has a table-like extension for food prep or meals.

In order to make the space appear larger and wider, Bentham relied on reflective surfaces. The range hood is clad in mirrored stainless steel, while the table portion of the island has a base wrapped in mirrored glass that creates the illusion that the island is floating.

Vertical-grain, high-gloss cabinetry adds further reflectivity and Veli pendants by Slamp add a touch of glamour.



THE DETAILS ■ KITCHEN DESIGN: Paul Bentham, Jennifer Gilmer Kitchen & Bath, Ltd., Chevy Chase, Maryland. CONTRACTOR: Mike Thornton, M.R. Thornton & Sons, Inc., Woodbine, Maryland. CABINETS: zonavita.com. COUNTERTOPS: caesarstoneus.com. BACKSPLASH & GLASS FABRICATION: hutchisonglassandmirror.com. APPLIANCES: mieleusa.com, subzero-wolf.com, rangecraft.com. PENDANTS: lumens.com. PHOTOGRAPHY: Bob Narod.



SOOTHING RETREAT

Designing a luxurious, modern master bath for Bethesda clients who wanted unique materials and a spa-like aesthetic, Paul Bentham first selected a three-dimensional porcelain wall tile by WOW. Paired with Calacatta marble floors, the undulating tiles provide a contrast to solid, dark-stained wenge surfaces that include vanity countertops, the top of a bench in the center of the room and the frame of a large mirror on one wall. The natural wood has been sealed against water damage.

Bentham replaced a seldom-used tub with a shower area featuring a window framed by water-resistant white quartz that looks like wood. Tiled in Certosa glazed porcelain, the shower zone boasts rain-head, fixed and hand-held showerheads, a storage niche and a tiled bench.

The vanity and central bench are set on tall, mirrored toe kicks so that they appear to float above the floor. Vessel sinks, wall-mounted faucets and oversized medicine cabinets complete the space.



THE DETAILS ■ BATH DESIGN: Paul Bentham, Jennifer Gilmer Kitchen & Bath, Ltd., Chevy Chase, Maryland. CONTRACTOR: Marios Nicolaou, Marnic Contractors, Washington, DC. VANITY: premiercb.com. COUNTERTOP, BENCH TOP & MIRROR FRAME: glumber.com. WALL TILE: wowdesigneu.com. VESSEL SINKS: kohler.com. SHOWER FIXTURES: grohe.com. MEDICINE CABINETS: robern.com. PHOTOGRAPHY: Bob Narod.