

Design by
Architectural Design, Inc.
Kitchen Design by
Roomscapes
Build by
Cape Associates

c o n t e m

k i t c h e n



When Holly and Jay came to Architect John Ingwersen with their folder full of ideas for their house renovation, John's eyes lit up. Instead of the usual Cape fare of painted beadboard and raised panels, the couple had photos of sleek, modern rooms; a

style John calls Italian High Tech. John's firm, Architectural Design Inc., is known for seamlessly blending a more contemporary look into the Cape vernacular. This renovation would be right up John's alley, and anchoring the project was a completely new kitchen.

Abundant

light and a

BOLD COLOR

combine for

a sleek

Orleans

kitchen

Kitchen as great room

The kitchen sits in a space that had been occupied by a screened porch in the original home, now joining a large open living room and dining room. The conventional arrangement is for the living and dining areas to sit in a great room with a high vaulted ceiling flanked by a more diminutive kitchen. In this project Ingwersen reversed that notion with a cathedral ceiling over the kitchen and a lower ceiling over the living room. "Just like they say, the kitchen is the heart of a house," said Holly. "We wanted the kitchen to be the focal point of the home both visually and functionally."

In keeping with the sleek, uncluttered look, the kitchen ceiling is not interrupted with the usual horizontal ties. The able building crew of Cape Associates incorporated a structural ridge over the kitchen so ties would not be necessary. "Holly and Jay wanted a light-filled kitchen, but with outside walls of the kitchen filled with wall cabinets, it was tough to fit in windows," mused Ingwersen. Instead Ingwersen positioned four venting skylights in the kitchen ceiling that flood the room with light. "We really wanted our kitchen to have a visual connection to the backyard where our two kids play with their friends," Holly explained, "So, John put a window in one corner of the gable wall and wrapped windows around the sink area in the other corner."

p o r a r y

Text & Photography by: Roe Osborn



The backsplash is free of any major "statement tiles." It simply adds to the existing sparkle of the room. And the professional grade appliances are pretty sweet too.

Wood, glass and stainless steel

For the design and installation of the kitchen itself, Holly and Jay turned to Glenn Meader of Rockland-based Roomscales. The couple chose maple as the wood for the cabinets. Its light color and subtle grain are in keeping with the streamlined look. The flat-panel, full-overlay doors and drawer faces create minimal shadow lines to further the effect.

At each end of the kitchen Meader included a stainless steel cabinet with fluted glass doors lit from within. Along with the stainless steel appliances and the elongated stainless cabinet pulls, the shiny surfaces further enhance the contemporary look. Holly chose a unique backsplash material that picks up on the stainless theme. "I wanted a surface that was non-traditional, but easy to keep clean. The stainless disc tiles were perfect both visually and practically. Cabinet kick plates take a lot of abuse, so we had them made out of stainless steel as well."

Kitchen Remodel



Easy being green

"Benjamin Moore Pear Green," Holly and Jay answer in unison when asked the color of their kitchen walls. "Holly is an artist, so I trusted her choice," said Jay. Holly explained, "Green is usually considered a cool color, but this green has heavy yellow undertones that make it feel warm. And with all the light, this space can easily handle such a bold color. It actually changes dramatically with the time of day, soaking up the warmth of the mid-day light and cooling down in the evening."

With the sleek look of the maple and stainless steel against the bright green background of the walls, the countertops had to be just right. "We looked at granite, but there was just too much character and variation. We chose CaesarStone because it gave us a neutral color with an even character."

The countertops are broken up nicely by the cabinetry and the appliances

Fluted glass cabinet doors are in keeping with the open, modern vibe.



Top: The homeowners opted to reverse the traditional great-room - kitchen concept by having a lower ceiling placed over the dining and living area and then cathedral style in the kitchen. **Bottom;** Custom-made, floor-to-ceiling cabinetry provides some separation between the dining and living areas.

around most of the kitchen perimeter to minimize the “landing strip” look. The exception is the curved peninsula. “We wanted a separation between the rooms, so Glenn showed us many different configurations for the peninsula,” said Holly. “In the end the curve created a softer divide, and the shape complemented the linear patterns in the rest of the kitchen.”

Wood floors in a kitchen?

In a move that might surprise some people, the couple chose rich quarter-sawn cherry floors for the kitchen. The cherry is in a color family close to the maple, only a few shades darker. While wood is very easy under foot, floors in a busy kitchen notoriously take a beating. But Holly and Jay wouldn’t have it any other way. “Sure there are scratches and dings, but these wood floors tell the story of our lives.”

True to their wishes and the design, Holly and Jay’s kitchen indeed is the heart of their home and the center of activity for their family. The kids sit at the peninsula to do their homework, and it’s the perfect place for informal family meals. “We wanted the kitchen to be a gathering place when friends come to visit,” Jay said. “This is the place that everyone is drawn to.” 🏡