



UNIFYING FORCE
Designer Brianne Bishop paired more traditional millwork in a rich gray with modern lighting to achieve a look that appealed to both of her clients, despite their different tastes.

STYLE OVERHAUL

FAMILY TIES

A young couple calls on a trusted designer to dream up a contemporary kitchen for two.

By Kaitlin Madden | Photography by Sarah Kokes

Interior designer Brianne Bishop (briannebishopdesign.com) has had talent from the start. The proof: Her very first project out of design school, a home renovation for a Gold Coast couple, made such a lasting impression that, a decade later, the same family hired her again. This time, however, it was the couple's daughter, Kirsten Schloss, and her husband, Robbie, who came calling. **CONTINUED...**



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...CONTINUED The project: a gut renovation of the dated kitchen in the newlyweds' Ukrainian Village home.

"I had seen what Brienne was able to do in my parents' house," remembers Kirsten. "They have different tastes, and she was able to meld their styles into one beautiful design. I knew if we hired her, she would get to know us and help us design a space that was reflective of each of our styles."

Blending two distinct aesthetics was at the forefront for the young couple. "My husband's taste is pretty industrial," says Kirsten. "He's drawn to Edison bulbs and mixed metals and leathers. But I'm more transitional. I like pieces that are timeless, but I also love modern elements and fun lighting."

From the outset, the design evolved from a few key ideas, including the 2-inch-thick Brazilian Quartzite countertops, the seamless antique mirror behind the bar and the custom paint color on the cabinetry—a choice Bishop calls the first of the couple's compromises. "We studied the color of the cabinets very hard," says the designer. "Kirsten wanted white and Robbie wanted dark, so after many trials of mixing the perfect custom color, we settled on a warm, soft gray and made the island its own element with a darker gray paint."

But the room's visual focal point was, surprisingly, an element of function, and one both husband and wife agreed upon. "The La Cornue range is definitely the star," says Bishop. "Kirsten and Robbie came to me CONTINUED..."



PERFECT MATCH From above: Bishop used Quartzite in White Fantasy for the countertops and backsplash and mixed two different Benjamin Moore colors with a tint to get the perfect shade of gray for the custom cabinetry. A custom bench replaces typical stool seating at the generously sized island, while the dining table, chairs and lighting are from Restoration Hardware. Sinks from Kallista with faucets and a pot filler from Waterstone have contemporary lines that fit the timeless look; the Elektra espresso machine adds vintage style.

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—KIRSTEN SCHLOSS,
HOMEOWNER

LOOKER COOKER
The La Cornue range was the starting point for the design and offers the right mix of industrial and tradition. The focal point of the kitchen, it was one element the couple wholeheartedly agreed on.

...CONTINUED with it at the beginning and I was elated—I’d always dreamed of using one in a project. They are so beautiful in design but also the best to cook with.”

The homeowners agree, calling the range their favorite feature. “It’s a direct reflection of both of our tastes, industrial and timeless,” says Kirsten. “Plus, the touch of black really pops in our all-gray-and-white kitchen.”

While style was key to the renovation, practicality never took a backseat to design. The existing space, though large, was poorly laid out and needed to be totally reconfigured in order to accommodate the couple’s budding culinary interest. “My husband and I spend

a lot of time cooking together,” says Kirsten. “We knew we needed to add certain things, like a larger island and more counter space, and the amazing Kallista sinks, which give each of us our own work station.”

As for similarities between mother and daughter? Bishop says they were apparent from the start. “You could definitely see points where Kirsten was inspired by her mother’s aesthetic—they share a love of antique finishes and dramatic patinas.” Ultimately, however, the design was tailored to the younger generation. “[Kirsten and Robbie] were very involved,” Bishop says. “We had a lot of fun with the design process as a collaborative team.” ■



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