



In a Palo Alto, California, kitchen, Studio Heimat employed a mix of white and dark-green metal cabinets along with dusty-green islands. The herringbone mosaic backsplash and Florida quartzite countertops are from Da Vinci Marble, and the lighting is from The Urban Electric Co.

PHOTO: JOHN MERKL COURTESY STUDIO HEIMAT.



Bright Idea

BEHOLD DELIGHTFUL KITCHENS AND INNOVATIVE PRODUCTS RIPE WITH CREATIVE SOLUTIONS AND FRESH PERSPECTIVES.

WRITTEN BY ALYSSA BIRD | PRODUCED BY SARAH SHELTON



The sunroom serves as a dining area with a banquette upholstered in a Missoni flame-stitch pattern. The adjacent kitchen boasts an oak bar area backed with Jimmy Cricket's Jungle wallpaper; rolling ladders provide easy access to tall storage.



MISE EN PLACE

Once Studio Heimat met the owners of this Palo Alto, California, Colonial, it was clear that the couple was ready to shake things up and have some fun with their renovation. “They weren’t looking for a big white kitchen,” explains the firm’s co-founder Alicia Cheung. “This is a young family that loves to travel, so we were inspired by European style and incorporated pieces that

feel more like furniture—including the two islands with open toe kicks.”

A new doorway and windows now physically, and visually, connects the kitchen to the adjacent sunroom while providing a natural dividing line between the prep areas for cooking and baking. In fact, one of Studio Heimat’s top priorities for this project was to accommodate the functional needs of the wife, a professional baker. “Everything has a place,” Cheung says. “A double cookie sheet fits perfectly in the refrigerator, and there’s a hidden pantry with a sink where messier baking items can be tucked away.”

As for the materials palette, the design firm and clients settled on a cool mix of white and dark-green metal perimeter cabinets, a natural oak bar area backed with an unexpected botanical wallpaper, dusty-green islands with brass inlay, and a herringbone mosaic backsplash that continues onto the wall between the kitchen and sunroom. Instead of sticking to just one hardware finish, they opted to use black metal and nickel on the perimeter and brass on the islands and lighting overhead. The result, Cheung says, is “a mix of warm and cold accents that feels interesting.” studioheimat.com



ON DISPLAY

TREND ALERT: TRADITIONAL CHINA CABINETS ARE GETTING A MODERN KITCHEN REBOOT.

“This minimalist cabinet features contrasting rustic knotty hickory and matte black paint. The upper metal-frame doors don’t have any decorative hardware, relying on a touch-to-open feature, while the lower doors have elegant brushed-brass pulls.”

—JOY YOUNG, townhousekitchensnyc.com



“I was inspired by bold vintage kitchens from the 1940s and ’50s. The built-in display cabinet makes this kitchen feel less utilitarian and more playful.”

—ALAINA MICHELLE RALPH, alainamichelleralph.com

“Glass cabinets are a beautiful way to add a personal touch in the kitchen. This homeowner requested a modern twist on French style and a place to display her heirloom pieces.”

—CHRISTINA GARCIA LYSAUGHT, layereddimentsid.com



Clockwise from top: Jacqueline Taylor Interiors collaborated with Townhouse Kitchens on an Armonk, New York, residence where hickory wood provides a rustic counterpoint to a sleek black cabinet with metal-frame doors. For her own Charleston kitchen, Alaina Michelle Ralph opted to paint the cabinetry Sherwin-Williams’ Persimmon with accents in Benjamin Moore’s Golden Gate. A French-inspired kitchen by Christina Garcia Lyslaught outside Dallas features built-in glass cabinetry in Sherwin-Williams’ Uncertain Gray.

PHOTOS, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: ADAM KANE MACCHIA, COURTESY TOWNHOUSE KITCHENS; JULIA LYNN; DAN PIASSICK, STYLED BY MELANIE MCKINLEY.



BONUS ROOM

ELIZABETH REYNOLDS
INTERIORS

When repeat clients called upon Elizabeth Reynolds to help complete their newly built house in Palmetto Bluff, South Carolina, the designer was presented with a unique challenge: The room adjacent to the main kitchen didn't yet have a dedicated function, and the family of five needed some guidance on how best to use the space.

How does this room function? This area does everything from serving as a mudroom and laundry room to a working kitchen and bar area. The wife bakes and the husband cooks, so they each have their own zone with the necessary storage.

Sounds like a real workhorse! What is packed in here? There's storage for entertaining essentials, a dishwasher, sink, wall ovens, wine fridge, glass bar cabinet, shoe cubbies by the door, laundry hidden in the island, and pullout shelves to air-dry items that are concealed by metal-mesh doors.

Tell us about the inspiration behind the color and pattern choices. The clients wanted to have fun with color and create a happy space. A palette inspired by the sky, dark-blue water, and crisp green grass felt so specific to this locale. We chose non-murky, clear hues and customized the floor tiles to match. Both the subway tile and the lighting lend a turn-of-the-20th-century vibe, and the glass-front bar cabinet breaks up the cabinetry. elizabethreynoldsinteriors.com

The cabinetry in this Palmetto Bluff, South Carolina, space by Elizabeth Reynolds is painted Sherwin-Williams' Byte Blue. The floor tile is Mirth Studio and the island curtain fabric concealing a washer and dryer is from Thibaut.

SLEEK SENSATION

Diehard minimalists, rejoice! Kohler's new Purist Suspend kitchen faucet features a ceiling-mounted adjustable pivoting arm, keeping the countertop completely clear. The faucet—which is controlled by a wireless remote puck that can live anywhere in the kitchen—is available in vibrant brushed modern brass, polished chrome, stainless and matte black. kohler.com

KITCHEN HEROES

THESE NEW PRODUCTS ARE AS STRIKING AS THEY ARE FUNCTIONAL.

PRETTY IN PORCELAIN

Caesarstone's new collection of porcelain surfaces evokes the look of natural stone, metal and concrete with the added benefit of greater strength and durability. Heat, stain and scratch-resistant and suitable for both indoor and outdoor use, the collection contains 22 colorways, including Mirabel, shown. caesarstoneus.com

COOL CUSTOMER

Signature Kitchen Suite's buzzy new Wi-Fi-enabled 48-inch French-door refrigerator-freezer (a first of its kind) boasts a convertible drawer with five preset temperatures for optimal chilling and a dual ice maker that offers two different ice shapes. signaturekitchensuite.com

BEVERAGE SERVICE

Cocktail hour has never looked so good thanks to Officine Gullo's new double-sided, stainless steel bar cart, whose colors and finishes can be tailored to any space. The cart features storage for everything from condiments and ice to bottles, glasses and utensils. officinegullo.com

SPICY SETUP

British brand Cabbonet—known for its kitchens, furniture and closets—is heating things up with its latest offering, Apothecary Spice Drawers. Avid cooks can have their spices at the ready—and on display—with these crystal drawers, which are handcrafted using molds designed in Germany during the 1920s. The drawers, complete with a pouring lip, can be incorporated into both islands and cabinets. cabbonet.com



PHOTOS: COURTESY RESPECTIVE COMPANIES.