



KERI MCKAY INTERIORS

Kitchens are the hidden hearts of homes, our lives beating through them every day. It's within those vital walls that meals are prepared, our children do their homework, and we plan our days. We even open up our kitchens to entertaining, the act of communal food preparation a source of joy and bonding. When our kitchen beats out of sync with our lives, however, it can be a source of struggle and dismay. In the case of this kitchen in Fairfield, CT, the homeowner

brought Keri McKay of Keri McKay Interiors on board to transform a dated, monotone space into a bright room of delight.

Nestled within a wooded property that is blessed with privacy and splendid garden views, the house is luminous with natural light streaming through its windows. It's the full-time home of a family with young children, and Keri made it her mission to understand what is important to her clients and how they live in their home. "My goal in every project is to make my client's home not only beautiful, but functional and livable for today's

busy lifestyles," Keri says.

For this space, the homeowner wanted a more contemporary kitchen with a hint of glamour. The clients liked the kitchen layout and quality craftsmanship of their existing cabinetry, Keri explains, but disliked the flatness of the room. "In the old space, the same wood finish was used on the floor, cabinets, countertops and backsplash, making it feel dull, dark and uninteresting," she notes.

Keri was determined to infuse the kitchen with texture and use reflective materials that take advantage of the natural light flooding in from window and skylights. Her design team kept the cabinetry, refinishing it and painting it a pure white, and painted the compact kitchen desk a soft gray. They installed lovely quartzite in white and gray for the main kitchen countertops, then stained the existing wood counters a warm, dark gray and finished them with a high-gloss lacquer. These counters are one of Keri's favorite aspects of the design. "They look crisp and elegant and give sharp contrast to the white cabinets and light oak floors," she says. The dazzling kitchen backsplash features white herringbone tile and miniature mother-of-pearl tiles; in fact, the mother-of-pearl mini-brick tiles completely frame the focal window, providing a glimmering portal through which to view their verdant yard. "This satisfies my client's desire for that bit of glamour," Keri notes, "and adds some





beautiful texture against the quartzite and lacquered countertops."

The culmination of this project is a kitchen revitalized, at last beating in time with the homeowners' lives.

KITCHEN DESIGN

Keri McKay

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