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A Perfect Blend

Left: Classic, understated, and tailored was the goal for the kitchen addition/renovation in a 1960s Summit colonial. Dark gray lacquer raised-panel cabinetry contrasts with the soft gray veining of the honed Calcutta Gold marble countertops and backsplash, says designer Marilee Schempp of Design I. Cherry exudes warmth, color, and texture as an interior veneer on the lighted glass-front "bar" cabinets, on the butcher-block center island, and as a stain on the red oak floor. A three-pendant bronze light fixture with rice paper shades makes a statement above the island. Equally eye-catching is the natural linen window treatment above the sink with large, hand-painted medallions. "The wallcovering repeats the natural linen look," says Schempp, a professional member of ASID and state certified interior designer. She limited color to the punch of coral on the faux leather barstool seats. An eighteenth century armoire with chicken wire doors — a Paris flea market find — adds character.

SOURCES: design, Design I Inc. in Summit; architect, Bol Architecture in Berkeley Heights; contractor, Walz Construction & Renovation Inc. in Lebanon; butcher-block counter, All-Wood Custom Woodworking in Elmwood Park; marble countertop and backsplash, Statewide Granite & Marble Inc. in Jersey City; plumbing and Rocky Mountain cabinet hardware, Hardware Designs Inc. in Fairfield; appliances, Karl's Appliance in Fairfield; pendant, Koza Lighting in Anderson Island, Washington; fabric, Kravet and Pierre Frey in New York City; barstools, Lorts in Goodyear, Arizona; mirror and glass, Glasscrafters in Hackensack; wallcovering, Seabrook Wallcoverings in Memphis, Tennessee.



Taste for Tradition

Above: Expanded to accommodate a professional couple with two children, a French Provincial-inspired kitchen in Madison boasts white cabinetry with a cinnamon glaze set against a honey onyx backsplash and a mosaic medallion inset above the range. Granite countertops have a creamy white background with shades of caramel and black and chocolate-tone veining. The custom hood — made of wood — was faux-painted to resemble copper. Designers Marlene Wangenheim and Maureen Fiori, both associate kitchen and bath designers and allied members of ASID, laid out the kitchen with 48-inch aisles in accordance with National Kitchen and Bath Association guidelines — a design element ideal for the two-cook couple who entertain frequently. The room — now with French-door access to an outdoor deck — easily accommodates a cocktail-party crowd but is also intimate enough for the family of four with a custom banquette that cozies up to a breakfast table and upholstered chairs, says Wangenheim, whose firm is Interiors By Design Inc. The banquette was designed with an arched back to avoid the splash factor from the island's prep sink; its Ultrasuede paprika cushion is "almost indestructible," Wangenheim says.

SOURCES: design, furnishings, and window treatments, Interiors By Design Inc. in Morristown; contractor, Wexford Custom Homes & Renovations Inc. in Summit; refrigerator and stove, Thermador.

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