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# Kitchen & Bath Business

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SUSTAINABLE DESIGN / REFRIGERATORS / DISHWASHERS / BATH SURFACES

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# CONTEMPORARY TRANSFORMATION

A redesign trades in an unattractive space for a gourmet kitchen

KITCHEN  
SECOND PLACE

THE KITCHEN LOOKED OUT OF PLACE with its disproportionate size and outdated design in this open, contemporary home. The original space only took up a small corner of the floor plan and was almost dwarfed by the 14-ft.-high ceilings.

"We needed to take an unattractive and proportionately small space and turn it into a stunning, contemporary gourmet kitchen better scaled to occupy the open plan with extra-high ceilings," said designer Leslie Lamarre of San Mateo, Calif.-based TRG Architecture + Interior Design.



**LEFT** The back-to-back sink layout with double dishwashers facilitates the homeowners' cleanup method; they both like to pitch in to get the job done quickly.

Two 18-in. wine cabinets and a pair of 36-in. polished steel china cabinets provide symmetry to the space.

**RIGHT** The judges loved the subtle accent of the high-gloss finish on the refrigerator and freezer panels, saying it was, "A simple, creative way to add some bling to the warm organic feel of the wood-grain cabinetry."

**FAR LEFT** The pivoting mudroom door, made with cabinet paneling material, seems to disappear along the main wall.



## ENTERTAINING HAVEN

These homeowners were an executive couple with no children, so they hoped for a space that would be primarily used for entertaining. They also wanted a kitchen that would ensure cleaning up did not interfere with hosting.

"The space would need to facilitate gourmet food preparation," said Lamarre. "At the same time, it needed to be free of clutter while keeping essentials close at hand."

Two islands were created; one is for entertaining and includes seating, while the other is primarily for prep and cleanup. Since this second island in particular is for the hosts—who want cleanup to go quickly—Lamarre designed it with back-to-back sinks and dishwashers on each side.

There is a built-in coffeemaker, and the built-in microwave has its own drop-down door. Beneath these is a servo-drive-powered—or touch-to-open—cabinet door, where countertop appliances are stored. The islands are topped with white marble, while the cooking areas around the perimeter feature resilient stainless steel.

"Materials were selected to project the upscale, contemporary and masculine aesthetic the client wanted," said the designer.

## SOURCES

**DESIGNER:** Leslie Lamarre, TRG Architecture + Interior Design; **PHOTOGRAPHER:** Bernard André

**DISHWASHER:** Asko; **FREEZER, REFRIGERATOR & WINE COLUMNS:** Sub-Zero; **LIGHTING:** Artimide; **MARBLE:** Pietra Fina; **RANGE:** Wolf; **SINKS:** Julien

## REARRANGING THE LAYOUT

The original kitchen had an awkward change in ceiling height from 141 inches in the prep space to the eat-in area, which was 165 inches high. One of Lamarre's first steps was eliminating this change and bringing everything down to 141 inches, which was in better proportion to the width of the room.

"I instead designed dropped ceilings over each island to add dimensionality to the space and establish a connection to the main ceiling above," said the designer, adding that she used AutoCad to redo this kitchen.

Another solution to this previously disproportionate kitchen was relocating the garage door to the end of the main cabinet wall. Because of this the design team was able to convert a storage room on the other side of this wall into a mudroom, which was on the client's wish list.

The clients also wanted to include a large-screen television and a favorite piece of art. By removing the previous pantry space and slating pullout trays for future pantry items, she freed up a wall for the television. The wall across from this is the ideal spot for the clients' beloved pop-art painting.



## BATHROOM SECOND PLACE

# MORE THAN BLACK & WHITE

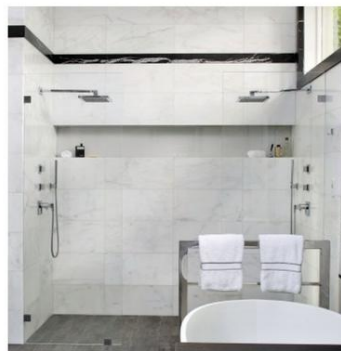
### A chaotic bath transforms into a well-organized, masculine space



**LEFT** The designer intentionally carried the black marble slab past the window and all the way to the ceiling to tie the space together. A combination of white marble framed by black marble creates the sophisticated, masculine feel the homeowners wanted.

**RIGHT** The fog-free mirrors are framed with the same black marble throughout the space.

**BELOW** The walk-in closets have room for 125 linear feet of hanging space and 216 pairs of shoes. The judges loved the full-width shower niche.



FOR A HIGH-POWERED EXECUTIVE COUPLE, coming home to an uncluttered and relaxing space was essential. Designer Leslie Lamarre of San Mateo, Calif.-based TRG Architecture + Design stepped in to change their existing disordered bathroom and closet into a space that better reflected their sophisticated lifestyle.

"The clients have rare time home together, so they wanted a contemporary bathroom that felt masculine and luxurious," said Lamarre, adding that the clients also requested a black-and-white color scheme. "They also have a sizable combined wardrobe and required enough closet space for at least 100 lineal feet of hanging space and 200 pairs of shoes."

#### SPACE CHALLENGES

To create a more organized space for the clients' clothing and shoes, the design team sectioned off nearly half of the available space for a closet. They also took space from an unnecessary linen closet in the adjacent hallway for the master closet, and a smaller existing closet off the bathroom was remodeled to store out-of-season clothes. Together, these two closets provide 125 lineal feet of hanging space and enough room for 216 pairs of shoes.

While the original closet seemed too small, the existing bath seemed too big. The unusually tall, 12-ft. ceilings seemed out of place in the previously outdated bath, but Lamarre wanted to take advantage of them.

"Rather than lowering the ceilings, I created a visual line around the room with black marble. This line is based off of the horizontal line offered by the bath's 8-ft. doors, which lead to the closet and master bedroom," she said, adding that she used AutoCad in this design. "This brings the



#### SOURCES

**DESIGNER:** Leslie Lamarre, TRG Architecture + Design;

**PHOTOGRAPHER:** Bernard André

**CABINETRY:** Amerian Woodworking;

**GLASS TILE:** Ann Sacks;

**SHOWERHEADS, TOWEL**

**WARMER & TUB FILLER:** Dornbracht; **SINKS:** Kohler;

**TOILET:** Toto;

**TUB:** Wetstyle

sense of the ceiling height down to scale while maintaining the spacious feel."

This black marble also outlines the doors and the original window, which has a slim, horizontal shape and looks out onto the redwood grove behind the home. A large black marble slab is also centered on the wall beneath the window and then continues up to the top of the 12-ft. ceiling – carrying past the window – and connecting the ceiling to the floor below.

"Both black and white marble are classic materials that fit well with the traditional architecture of the home," said Lamarre, while explaining that the rest of the bathroom walls are covered in white marble.

#### LUXURIOUS DETAILS

To go along with a black-and-white theme, the clients wanted their bathroom to have luxurious touches. This starts with the glamorous vanities, set against a silver-backed glass tile. Fog-free mirrors are framed with the same black marble to match the feature slab and marble trim.

"The vanities are also made with ebonized oak and topped with the same white marble that covers the walls to continue the black-and-white color scheme," said Lamarre, adding that the units also boast natural horn drawer pulls.

Other glamorous touches include a crystal chandelier that mimics rainfall and a floor-mounted towel warmer, which is accessible from both the shower and tub. Finally, the floor also boasts slip-resistant, gray porcelain planks – heated for comfort – to add a contemporary edge to the bath. ●