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HOME

& LIVING

Special

HOUSTON DESIGN

section

Kitchens
in every flavor



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Kitchens of Texas

More than any other room in a home, a kitchen must change with its owners. No room is more likely to be gutted, gathered in, loathed, or loved depending on how it meets or falls short of a cook's, and a family's, daily needs.

TH&L scoured the state for kitchens that are designed to meet any demand, large or small. Whether they're used for preparing oatmeal or osso buco—or for providing a place for kids to do homework—these kitchens are up to the task.



High-Tech Art Deco

Renee T. West, Capital Distributing

Text by Jennifer Krichels



“I called this kitchen ‘appliance rich, but cabinetry poor,’” says Renee West, a design consultant for Dallas-based Capital Distributing. Her clients, Jeff and Sherry Van Hess, a young couple with a pre-teen daughter, were very eager to use Jeff’s Miele employee discount (he works for the company’s dental equipment division). The kitchen would have every piece of equipment the eager chefs could wish for—including a built-in Miele coffee system, speed oven, steam drawer, and a Sub-Zero refrigerator and wine preservation system. The glut of appliances posed a challenge for West, whose clients also desired a clean-lined, contemporary space.

The space surrounding the cooktop had little room for cabinets, so a pull-out spice cabinet to the left, a two-drawer pots-and-pans cabinet beneath, and cabinet with roll-out trays to the right make use of every square inch. The cabinets above the steam

Glass art tile above the cooktop and along the counter backsplash was handmade by Bowman Hot Glass to add artistic flair to the kitchen. A glass vent hood ensures the tile is in full view. Blue Eyes granite countertops have an iridescent quality, providing a clean contrast to the charcoal Shaker-style cabinetry.

oven, single wall oven, and warming drawer have dividers for cookie sheets and trays, and a pull-out trash cabinet is tucked between the sink and dishwasher. Jeff and Sherry are avid entertainers, so a bar and serving area with storage for every stir-stick and corkscrew helps streamline the kitchen when there’s a crowd. The wine room and butler’s pantry also add easy-access storage space nearby. Arched doorways and pass-through windows, which match the rest of the traditional North Dallas home, create a flow between the kitchen and its adjacent rooms.

Practicality aside, the kitchen boasts a unique style that West terms “transitional with an Art Deco flair.” Schonbeck pendant lights above the island and a complementary chandelier above the kitchen table bring the sparkle of crystal to the sunlit room. A wall of tile behind the cooktop is the room’s main artistic element, adding movement and abstract shape to the space—a perfect complement to the liveliness it sees on a daily basis.