

# Warm Neutrals in the *Kitchen*

Deborah Martin  
is flawless in form  
and function

*Luxury reveals itself  
in the combination of  
warm finishes, intriguing  
textures and custom  
dual-finish cabinetry*

PHOTOGRAPHY PHILLIP ENNIS

Designing what is arguably the most important room in the home to better meet the needs of a very busy young family of seven means leaving nothing to chance. Equal parts aesthetics and functionality, this nearly 900 square foot, full-amenity kitchen resulted from meticulous space planning and exquisite craftsmanship. Architect Todd O'Connell was selected to lead the permitting and planning process. Morning Star Construction was awarded the construction bid and closely collaborated with both architect and designer to implement the design.

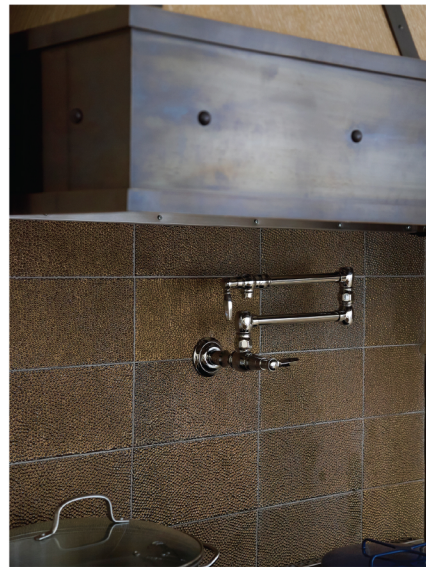
Comprised of three main areas, the kitchen has long perimeter walls that house the major appliances and main sink. A massive hardworking island dedicated to food preparation and casual seating incorporates a second sink and dishwasher as well as ample organization and storage systems. The former powder room and pantry were relocated to create space for a large beverage and food serving center within the dining area.

Functional elegance in this serving and dining area was achieved with a fusion of design elements and custom materials. This bright, sunlit space is now a fitting gathering place for this large family. A collaborative masterpiece between local talent Wood & Co and celebrated Charleston Forge, the ninety-inch table with seating for eight is bathed in ambient architectural



Sophisticated communication and technology control systems had to be carefully relocated to increase the depth of the appliance wall which includes a Miele beverage unit, side by side refrigeration, a flat screen tv, a wall oven and microwave. A satellite kitchen on the home's lower level somewhat tempered the family's inconvenience, but the targeted completion timeline was exceeded by two weeks.

Luxurious design is ultimately the ability to produce exclusivity and authenticity. In this kitchen, handcrafted artisanal quality cabinetry contributed to the flawless complement of form, function and fit. A detail-oriented, labor centric process resulted in a kitchen that is at once welcoming and elegantly chic. 🏠



lighting installed in the octagonal domed ceiling. Equally dramatic lighting in the form of a constellation of glass pendants is suspended over the cerused oak island whose exquisite finish is repeated on the custom aged brass metal clad ventilation hood.

Maintenance free materials and finishes topped the client's list of new kitchen attributes. Quartzite was selected for countertops, the island and ceiling high backsplash. Custom chairs and stools were upholstered in a care-free material that was also used for the window cornice. Fixtures were chosen in a chrome finish and large-format honed porcelain tiles cover the floor. Michael Aram's Molten Bronze textured porcelain extends from range to ceiling as the cooktop backsplash. Dual-dimensioned glass tile at the serving area is one of three backsplash materials.

The project was not without its challenges. Moving load bearing walls mandated the installation of a large steel ceiling beam.

