



KITCHEN HELP

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DREAM KITCHENS

CLEAN AND CRISP

A contemporary space that's as practical as it is stylish
BY KATHLEEN BRIDGES

The owners of this home in DC's Woodley Park wanted a kitchen that would be practical enough to suit the needs of their four young children while still feeling urban and contemporary.

To open up the cramped space, Hamilton Snowber Architects and Horizon Builders tore down the walls that separated the kitchen and dining room. Working with interior designer Lori Graham, the homeowners chose a crisp, cool palette of white, robin's-egg blue, and chocolate brown. "It's timeless but still feels modern and playful," says Graham.

Perimeter cabinets in lacquered white and stainless steel are functional—"Smear spaghetti sauce wipes right off," says one of the owners—and helped make the space feel bigger. "In a small space, reflective surfaces really help to bounce light around," says Nadia N. Subaran of Aidan Design, which supplied the cabinets.

For a pop of color, Subaran created custom aqua-colored lacquered cabinets to go under the island. "People are really embracing color right now," says Subaran, "and lower cabinets are an ideal place to introduce it. Above waist level, the color starts to dominate, not complement."

Keeping the rest of the space subdued and neutral—white Corian countertops, a simple glass backsplash—tempers the impact of the colored cabinets. "We didn't want the effect to be 'wow, that's an aqua kitchen,'" says Subaran. "Instead, it's a timeless, practical style that they won't tire of in years to come."



Where to Find It

CABINETS: Custom Wood-Mode, through Aidan Design. **HARDWARE:** Stainless steel by Hafele. **COUNTERS AND SINK:** Custom-sculpted Corian, through Aidan Design. **ISLAND-SINK FAUCET:** Kohler. **CLEANUP-SINK FAUCET:** Danze. **REFRIGERATOR, COOKTOP, WALL OVENS, AND MICROWAVE:** KitchenAid. **DISHWASHER:** Bosch. **HOOD:** Gaggenau. **BARSTOOLS:** Plaston by LEM. **LIGHTING:** Lightolier.

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don't do good work. Firms often provide referrals, so consider this list a starting point.

CABINETS AND KITCHEN DESIGNERS

ABSOLUTE KITCHENS. Architect Richard Forbes designs both modern and traditional kitchens using cabinetry from Superior Woodcraft, Woodharbor Doors & Cabinetry, and Quality Custom Cabinetry. *By appointment; 8230 Boone Blvd., Suite 170, Vienna; 703-917-0744; absolute-kitchens.com.*

AIDAN DESIGN. Nadia Subaran's specialty is creating transitional kitchens for those who love to cook, entertain, and eat. Her firm has its own lighting division that carries modern brands such as Luceplan and Flos. *4701 Sangamore Rd., Suite L3, Bethesda; 301-320-8735; aidandesign.com.*

BOFFI. An Italian firm known for its modern cabinetry and design, including custom hoods. Services include design, installation, and maintenance. *3320 M St., NW; 202-337-7700; boffigeorgetown.com.*

BRADFORD DESIGN. Owner Brad Creer designs all kinds of kitchens in a style that's clean-lined and integrated. He uses custom cabinets, moldings, and hoods to create original looks. *7817 Oldchester Rd., Bethesda; 301-320-0930; bradforddesignllc.com.*

BULTHAUP. This contemporary German kitchen-design firm and cabinetmaker specializes in simple, functional spaces. At the Georgetown showroom, you can buy cabinetry and order cutting boards, drawer organizers, and more. *3324 Cady's Alley, NW; 202-338-2220; washington.bulthaupt.com.*

CEMEO KITCHENS. Cameo has been designing traditional kitchens in Northern Virginia for nearly three decades. The company has its own installers on staff, which helps keep projects on time. *7297-M Lee Hwy., Falls Church; 703-532-4545; cameokitchenonline.com.*

DAVIDA'S KITCHEN & TILES. Peers praise Davida Rodriguez for her creative use of tiles. Her firm carries cabinets by Wood-Mode and Brookhaven. *435-A&B E. Diamond Ave., Gaithersburg; 240-361-9331; davidaskitchenandtiles.com.*

DEE DAVID & CO. Designer Dee David specializes in small, contemporary kitchens in Northern Virginia and has recently started taking on projects in Virginia's Northern Neck. She carries five lines of cabinetry: Plain & Fancy, Carriage Hill, Birchcraft, Talora by Decor, and Haas.