

THE ESSENTIALS

Solutions for the Busiest Rooms in the House



KITCHEN OF THE MONTH

Bold Statement

A contemporary tile wall inspires the tones of this urban kitchen.

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STEPHEN JOHNS
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Designing a thoroughly modern, hyper-organized kitchen for a high-powered New York City fashion executive (who actually cooks!) was a welcome challenge for California designer Tyler Pankratz. There was just one problem: a bare, unusable wall. What to do? Make it the focal point of the room! Custom-colored Little Diamond tiles from Heath Ceramics create a space with optical interest—and serious drama. —*Carisha Swanson*

1 STEEL TRAP
The homeowner initially chose a panel-ready refrigerator and dishwasher by Jenn-Air but decided she preferred the professional appearance of stainless steel. “She wanted appliances that look like appliances!” says Pankratz. Kohler’s Vault apron sink is deep enough to conceal cookware until the party’s over. Emeco stools by Philippe Starck.

2 SURFACE APPEAL
Caesarstone’s honed Pebble surface does double duty as countertop and backsplash, creating a seamless quality and minimizing contrast in this small footprint. To soften what could be a chilly, all-gray environment, Pankratz used Waterworks Keystone basalt stone tiles on the floor for warmth and texture. “It adds a natural, organic feel to the space.”

3 HARDWIRED
Where does the homeowner plug in her KitchenAid mixer? In a system of hidden under-cabinet outlets and task lighting that keeps the backdrop clean. A dedicated light accentuates the statement wall when the homeowner is entertaining. Lightyears Mingus pendants in a matte gray add needed brightness to the island.

4 WELL-MEASURED
The client’s request: “Everything from my old kitchen has to fit in my new one—but better.” Pankratz measured everything, from the smallest gadget to the much-used wok, before ordering the custom cabinets and hardware. Extending the storage to the ceiling ensured that every inch of wall space was utilized. Cabinets in Benjamin Moore’s Street Chic.