

DESIGN + DECOR

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HEMINGWAY CONSTRUCTION





This kitchen remodel almost defies description—mere superlatives do not suffice. Peter Sciarretta of Hemingway Construction partnered with Jon Halper of Halper Architects to create this stunning space with unsurpassed attention to detail.

Hemingway built the stately custom Georgian Colonial for the clients roughly 10 years ago. They charged him with recreating the kitchen into a space that offered more opportunity for connection and communication, but at the same time served as a functional workspace where real roll-up-your-sleeves cooking happens as well.

“The original kitchen was walled in by a traditional colonial maze floor plan, and was now burst into one open space where rooms are defined by ceilings and millwork, instead of walls,” Peter recounts. Indeed, the variety in ceiling height, architectural detail and execution define the function and separation of space. The kitchen has a double-stepped recessed ceiling. A vaulted trapezoid ceiling over the seating area adds visual drama and intimacy. Coffered ceilings give a cozier ambience to the family and breakfast room area.

The central kitchen area boasts clean-lined moldings, white cabinetry with two-inch stiles, and rails for both doors and drawers, all of which were expertly executed by Sterling Custom Cabinetry. The custom cabinetry for the island was done in white oak stained a gray hue, with somewhat softer one-inch stiles and rails and quarter-inch stepped recessed panels. The slab work in this kitchen is extraordinary and, indeed, the client was uncompromising on this feature: She wanted a particular color in a single piece, so there would be no seams or joints. The 10- by 6-foot island surface and the backsplash in the stove alcove total approximately 50 square feet and are executed in “Calacatta Gold Supreme Honed.” Connecticut Stone was instrumental in sourcing the product out of state.

Despite the tremendous workmanship and wealth of exquisite details, the kitchen is warm and inviting and not at all pretentious. The butler’s pantry remains a walled-in space, but it’s not hidden from view, thanks to its stunning blue color. A metallic blue automotive paint was used on all the custom cabinetry, and the herringbone tiled backsplash offers additional visual interest and texture. The starburst pendant radiates a soft glow and echoes the gilt frame in the wall art and the brass fixtures in the main kitchen space. The visual details converse with one another and connect to the remaining expanse of the kitchen.

“The heart of the home is really about conversation and exchange,” reflects Peter. “The seating and gathering areas in this kitchen needed to be connected, and there had to be a conversational relationship between the spaces.” He credits the clients with the success, noting that, along with their exceptional patience and generosity, it was their unrelenting commitment to getting all the details right that proved invaluable. “The clients’ elevated expectations and exacting standards made us better,” he adds. When the bar is set high, true artistry rises to the occasion.

Resources:

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