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# KITCHEN COULTURE

written by EMILY ZAHNISER photography by JOHN GRANEN

INSPIRED BY BOUTIQUE HOTELS, THIS STYLISH KITCHEN REFURB EMULATES THE DESTINATION-WITHIN-A-DESTINATION AESTHETIC OF THE WORLDS MOST ON FLEEK LODGINGS. MORE THAN A ROOM WITH A VIEW, GUESTS AND HOMEOWNERS ALIKE MAY BE DRAWN TO THE VISTA, BUT STAY FOR THE THOUGHTFUL AMENITIES AND COZY ACCOMMODATIONS.



Dark cabinets don't necessarily mean that your kitchen will be dark. Glossa customized the warm grey color - a hard-wearing conversion varnish by Morgan's Fine Finishes. "With the lighter countertop and statement backsplash ("Akira" by Sonoma Tilemakers), the kitchen doesn't feel too heavy. That's the trick - where to bring in the light," says Glossa.



JANICE AND GREG MERLINO LOVE TO ENTERTAIN. Their kitchen was the prominent gathering place. Plus, the panoramic views from Seattle's View Ridge neighborhood were a natural backdrop best seen from the adjacent deck. "We thought expanding the deck would give us more room for overflow," said Greg Merlino, "But the design plan for the new kitchen folded in the existing deck so well, we ended up not needing to expand the deck."

The Merlino's brought on Sandall Norrie Architects and Kathleen Glossa of Swivel Interiors to help them realize more space and utility in their main floor, including redesigning their kitchen and dining layout. The first consideration was to maximize the water and mountain views. The second was how to create a cozy yet sophisticated atmosphere reminiscent of a boutique hotel – and the de rigueur creature-comforts found therein.

The new plan for the kitchen centered the vista with a large island and the LaCantina accordion wall door set from Windows, Doors & More that allows access to the deck. A roomy dining nook was installed in one corner. Cleverly hidden within the banquet is handy office equipment. Additional conveniences include a hidden, curated cabinet ready to serve breakfast, including coffee, smoothies, and toast. For evening, a corner brass-and-glass bar cart is filled with vintage bar accessories and aged whiskies.

Using a warm color palette with some accents of burnt orange, rich blues, and woodsy greens, Glossa layered textures including leather, fur, and suede for the upscale ambiance. The base wall color, "Calm" by Benjamin Moore, ties it all together. Emulating the bespoke hardware of the most beautiful hotel bars, Glossa accomplishes a handmade effect by mixing two different metals – matte pewter and antique brass. The statement pendant lighting features both metals in harmony with the cabinet color.

"Kathleen helped us navigate how to blend our more modern aesthetic into the rest of the traditional craftsman-style house," said Merlino. "She and the team, including contractor WS Feldt were wonderful to work with. They found unique ways to reach our goals while staying true to our vision."

"While we both have offices in the house, we find we gravitate to the views and handy amenities of the kitchen when working from home," said Merlino. "It's brilliant to have a printer and filing cabinet hidden right here." The banquet nook features custom upholstery cushions covered in a durable anti-stain and anti-fade Perennials fabric sourced through the Susan Mills Showroom at the Seattle Design Center.



**PROJECT SOURCES**

<b>CONTRACTOR</b> W.S. Feldt General Contractor wsfeldt.com	<b>SELECT FABRIC</b> Susan Mills Showroom susanmills.com
<b>ARCHITECT</b> Sandall Norrie Architects sandallnorrie.com	Seattle Design Center seattledesigncenter.com
<b>INTERIOR DESIGN</b> Swivel Interiors swivelinteriors.com	<b>SELECT PAINT</b> Benjamin Moore benjaminmoore.com
<b>DOORS</b> Windows, Doors & More windowshowroom.com	