

BY SUSAN NYE | PHOTOGRAPHY BY GBH PHOTOGRAPHY

# Bright and Beautiful

A CONTEMPORARY KITCHEN DESIGNED TO LAST

This kitchen features maple wall cabinets painted white, weathered quartersawn white oak base cabinets, and maple island and bar cabinets accented with a custom color and topped off with a Calacatta Natura polished quartz countertop.



**W**hen the new homeowners purchased their traditional colonial, they knew they wanted to make some immediate changes. Like many mid-century homes, it was dated, especially the kitchen and bathrooms, plus it had a few too many walls. Wendy Williamson, designer at Domus Builders, worked with the owners to open up the house and give it a more contemporary look. First among several projects was a new, family-friendly kitchen.



Teaming up with Shaker Hill Granite, Wendy reinvented the already large kitchen into a space that is perfect for cooking and socializing. “The home has wonderful large windows and we wanted to take advantage of the light and the views,” says Wendy. After talking with the homeowners to understand their needs and wants, Wendy developed the design, layout, and color palate. She then worked with Cabinetry Specialist John Napsey and Production Manager Shawn Bronson at Shaker Hill Granite to make the concept a reality.

#### TIMELESS STYLE

Busy professionals, the couple wanted a kitchen that looked great and was easy to clean and maintain. The kitchen is now contemporary but timeless. The materials, style, and colors look wonderful today and will still look beautiful for years to come. John helped Wendy and her clients take the design from concept to reality. Together they made sure that everything worked and worked together.

The quartz countertops are bold, beautiful, and indestructible. Quartz is becoming increasingly popular, particularly with younger homeowners. It comes in a variety of colors and designs. In this case, the countertops have the look of marble with none of the hassle. The quartz surface requires no maintenance; the nonporous surface makes it impervious to stains. For aesthetics, the waterfall edge on both ends of the island creates a dramatic statement. Advances in software technology continue to play a key role in design, including creating the flawless waterfall. Shawn and his team lined up the slabs digitally to ensure a perfectly matched edge.

**Opposite:** The open yet welcoming space invites family members to partake in daily activities.

**Right and below:** This galley-style kitchen allows for multiple cooks and workstations.

Also on trend, the custom-made, high-end cabinetry combines different door styles and colors. Combining two different cabinet colors in a kitchen is increasingly popular, but Wendy and the homeowners took it a step further with three. The base cabinets are weathered white oak. Overhead, the maple cabinets have a white finish. The island and bar are accented with a custom color. Regardless of color, the cabinets' simple frames are easy to wipe and keep clean.

### BRING IN THE PROS

Unless your project is a simple one-for-one replacement of cabinets and countertops, “Work with professionals,” recommends John. “Any complex design needs the advice of a designer and/or architect. For implementation, a general contractor has all the subs ready to go for plumbing, electrical, and flooring. Along with Domus, we work with many general contractors to provide cabinets, countertops, and tile.”

When it comes to complex remodels, particularly when kitchens and baths are involved, Wendy advises, “If you can move out during the renovation, do it. While the crews are always respectful, a remodel is invasive. There are people in your home every day.” In addition, for the past years, everyone seems to have decided to renovate. Wendy cautions homeowners, “Lead times for just about everything—materials and subcontractors—are long and often unpredictable. Another unfortunate issue, prices on just about everything continue to go up. Homeowners need to be prepared for changes: changes in timeline and changes in costs.” Wendy urges clients, “Be patient. It really is worth it.” **TW**

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