

GREAT KITCHENS

FALL ARTS GUIDE

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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—"Smearred 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:** Piston by LEM. **LIGHTING:** Lightolier.

