



Feminine sensibility

This intricately styled kitchen underpins decorative appeal with a wealth of behind-the-scenes functionality

Often the personality of a kitchen design can be formed by a single strong element. The backsplash – engaging at eye level and covering a large area – is one popular way to set the scene.

This dainty kitchen is part of a house remodel by designer Davida Rodriguez. The previous enclosed space was looking tired after years of catering to teenagers. Instead, the owner wanted a room that would open to the adjacent family room – one large volume with a light, feminine look running throughout, says Rodriguez.

“We knocked down a wall between the two spaces and stripped out the kitchen and old drywall. White cabinetry with classic mouldings was introduced, with ribbon detailing added on the range hood and valance above the sink.”

A white backsplash with hand-painted pink, green, yellow accents on pillowed ceramic tiles was sourced by Rodriguez to set off the design. This fabric-like tile-work can be seen behind the cooktop and on other wall surfaces in the kitchen.

The pastel tiles are complemented by

Above left: This kitchen remodel by designer Davida Rodriguez has a light, cottage-style look, enhanced by dainty upholstery fabric. Upper wall cabinets provide ample storage and many appliances are shielded from sight. A shallow cabinet on the outer edge of the space provides a link with the new family room. A butcher-block top and legs give this piece a furniture-like appeal.

Above: The ribbon motif on the range hood is repeated on the valance on the wall opposite and reflects a similar element on the owner's cake servers. The pillowed ceramic backsplash is in a subtle pink hue.



Above: While much of the design was driven by the woman of the house, the whole-bean grind and brew system coffee maker was a request of her husband's.

Above right: The substantial three-door fridge-freezer is fully integrated, with robust cabinetry handles the only indication of its presence. Pilasters by the sink hold pull-out spice racks. New arched fenestrations in the living area match the windows of the display cabinet, which is used as a dry bar.

light-green granite countertops with a swirling pattern that resembles marble.

To give the kitchen a cottage-like feel, Rodriguez complemented these delicate touches with a rust-toned hardwood floor that has a slightly rustic, textured finish.

Despite the wealth of detail and finish, the kitchen has a hard-working, practical side. The understated desk area is used daily and is fitted with file drawers to the right and a paper shredder and printer in custom drawers to the left.

For the chef's benefit, a clear-ice maker

and warming drawer are tucked out of sight in the island, and the sink area is served with an integrated dishwasher and waste unit.

Integrating the long appliance list and achieving the required functionality was a challenge for the designer. However, the completed kitchen has the feel of a serene living space – a natural extension of the adjoining reinvented family room.

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Kitchen designer: Davida Rodriguez NKBA,

Davida's Kitchen and Tiles (Gaithersburg, MD)

Cabinet: Brookhaven frameless in maple with Springfield raised panel in Nordic white by Wood-Mode

Countertops: Perimeter, polished Verde Costa Esmerelda granite with ogee edge; dry bar, European Walnut Cafe Countertops with Roman ogee edge, from Avanti Marble & Granite

Flooring: Heritage 3¼ in pre-finished red oak with Gunstock matte finish from Bayard Sales Corp

Doors and windows: Pella

Kitchen furniture: Pleasant Isle glass-top table and chairs from Broyhill

Coffee maker: Miele

Lighting: Recessed ceiling, Xenon undercabinet lighting with white plugmold

Backsplash: American Quilt Tile, custom colored, True White with diagonal Celeste Green, pink, yellow

Kitchen sink: Cast iron with white undermount, by Kohler

Faucets: Duxbury brushed nickel from Graff

Oven: GE Monogram electric single oven

Warming drawer: GE Monogram 30in

Cooktop: GE Monogram Gas on Glass

Ventilation: Zephyr Tornado

Microwave: GE Monogram with Advantium Speedcook

Refrigeration: Thermador 36in with custom panel,

Freedom three-door bottom freezer

Dishwasher: Kitchen Aid – Architect II Ultima

Waste disposal: InSinkErator compact Evolution

Ice maker: GE Monogram Undercounter automatic

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