

KITCHEN TRENDS



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Practical chic

This two-island kitchen combines efficiency with a clean, modern aesthetic

Whether an aid to functionality, a casual eating spot or an element that separates living spaces from the business end of the kitchen, an island is a versatile design element. As a solid, freestanding feature it can also provide a visual anchor for an open, airy decor.

This kitchen remodel was part of a whole-house rethink by architect and designer Richard Landry of Landry Design Group and project architect Todd Riley. The interior was stripped out, including the existing kitchen. With just one small window, it was a dark, enclosed space, despite being set by an exterior wall, says Riley.

"The new kitchen is in the same sunny corner of the home, but is set back – open to the extensively glazed living areas and the leafy outlooks beyond," says Landry. "The owner wanted a light, white appeal for the interior and the high-gloss reflective rear walls in the kitchen are a continuation of this."

In other areas of the home, pale tones are punctuated by colorful artworks and drapery, but here natural material accents, such as the leather upholstery and dark stone countertops, provide the balancing contrast.

With stainless steel appliances and ample

storage, the kitchen's rear walls are a picture of gleaming functionality, and the layout ensures the two islands work equally hard.

"The outer island includes under-counter storage but is largely used as a breakfast bar," says Riley. "The inner island is the real powerhouse of the kitchen. Close to the range and the pantry, it has a prep sink on one side and a cleanup sink on the other."

Dishwashers are fitted on either side of the cleanup sink. This multipurpose island also has several compartmentalized roll-out drawers.

"As the design of the kitchen evolved, we

Above left: As part of a greater space, this kitchen is defined partly by the ceiling treatments. A dropped perimeter element conceals services, while three central soffits respond to the back-of-kitchen area and the two islands.

Above: Warm-toned countertops and leather banquette seating provide counterpoints to an expansive, predominantly white room.



Above: Integrated refrigerators stand to the left and right of the wall ovens. Storage is provided on this wall of cabinetry, along with several display niches. The island has dishwashers on either side of the clean-up sink as well as high-tech drawer systems.

Right: The cooktop is set on the rear wall rather than an island, as the hood would have blocked views to the living spaces.

changed the position of the appliances several times. It was all about finding the easiest, most efficient way for the owner to work within the space – this kitchen really is first and foremost about functionality,” says Landry.

While the kitchen is most frequently used for family meals, with the breakfast bar providing a place to gather for casual snacks or to watch television, the new layout and decor create an attractive setting for entertaining.

A leather banquette set in a window nook makes another welcoming area for dining and relaxation.



Architect and kitchen designer:

Richard Landry, AIA, NCARB,
Landry Design Group (Los Angeles);
project architect: Todd Riley, AIA

Interior designer: Joan Behnke
and Associates

Kitchen designer: Cooper Kitchens

Kitchen manufacturer: SieMatic

Cabinetry: White lacquer

Countertops: Quartz in
Lagos Blue

Lighting: YLighting

Drapes: De Mott Drapery

Backsplash: Walker Zanger in Miza
Rice Paper

Kitchen sink: Franke Manor House in
stainless steel from Ferguson

Faucets: Dornbracht Tara Collection
from Ferguson

Oven, cooktop: Wolf

Water dispenser: Franke

Microwave: GE


Refrigeration: Sub-Zero

Dishwasher: Incognito by Miele

Waste disposal: InSinkErator

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Right: The butler's pantry to the rear of the kitchen continues the white and tan tones of the main room. Uniform wood floors flowing through the pantry, kitchen and living areas also draw the spaces together. This set-back area expands the kitchen's function, and prevents it from overwhelming the open-plan interior.

