

MID-CENTURY MAGIC

Designer Ann Gottlieb brings clean lines and chic style to an open-plan kitchen/dining area

Six months after buying an outmoded split-level in Fairfax, Virginia, its owners were ready for an overhaul. They envisioned better flow and function, and updated style—particularly in the drab kitchen. “The wife loves the mid-century aesthetic,” recounts Ann Gottlieb, who was hired for the job. “Since the house was built in the ’50s, she wanted to embrace that look.”

Gottlieb created openness by replacing a loadbearing wall between the kitchen and dining room with a wood-clad steel support beam. Windows in both spaces were enlarged and the kitchen was reconfigured around a spacious island. A coat of white paint brightened the existing beamed, exposed-wood ceiling in the kitchen; a layer of drywall between the beams conceals wires for lighting.



A waterfall island dominates the kitchen (above), where Showplace cabinetry painted in Sherwin Williams’ Dorian Gray is paired with MSI quartz countertops and a backsplash of glazed-ceramic Zellige tiles. Eurofase pendants and stools from &Tradition contribute to the mid-century vibe.

Interior & Kitchen Design: Ann Gottlieb, IIDA, LEED AP ID+C, Ann Gottlieb Design, Fairfax, Virginia. Contractor: Luxor Improvements, Fort Washington, Maryland.



EXPERT INSIGHTS

Notes from Ann Gottlieb

Don’t go cheap on cabinets; you’ll need them to be sturdy and long-lasting. Use a good, quality brand with a lifetime warranty.

Invest in a recessed-lighting plan; you’ll want to make sure you have the right quantity in the right locations for functionality.

There are vendors now who will permanently seal marble, so don’t let worries about maintenance and staining stop you if marble is what you love.

TOP: The revamped dining area is enveloped in cream-colored sisal wallpaper by Weitzner. A Rejuvenation Lighting chandelier hangs above a West Elm table and mid-century Cherner chairs. Velvet drapes are by Imogen Heath.

BOTTOM: A Fulgor Milano range satisfied the needs of the wife, a serious baker. Gottlieb paired it with a custom Hoodsly hood on the back wall, framed by open shelving in white oak. The existing red oak floor from the dining area has been lightened and extended into the kitchen for continuity.