

Minimal Midcentury Modern

This project was a gut renovation and addition to an existing split-level ranch house in Mamaroneck that hadn't been updated since the 1950s (think shag carpet and funky wallpaper). The new homeowners, who were moving from down the street, loved the community but wanted their forever home. They hired Hope Scully of HHS Interior Design Associates, who wanted to maximize the water views and fill the space with light. The homeowners wanted an airy, modern feel with personality.

"The kitchen carried a theme from the rest of the house where we used light wood throughout the public spaces," says Scully. "This kitchen is a mix of minimalist midcentury modern with a twist of eclectic."

As with all renos, this one came with its own set of challenges. One whole side of the room is sliding glass doors facing the backyard, so nothing could be put against them. The 10-foot island could have been larger, but the team was limited on slab sizes for the counter.



THE TEAM:

Designer:
Hope Scully,
HHS Interior Design
Associates

Architect:
Richard F. Hein, RFH
Design

Contractor:
John Poniros

Kitchen Cabinets:
Alba Kitchen and Bath



Finally, there was a question of how high the cabinets should go given the tall ceilings. "They are high and somewhat inaccessible, but we decided it was worth it to give that 'wrapped' feeling around the cooking area," says Scully. This also offers up more storage, which is always a plus.

The light fixtures needed to be fun and functional but also not block the view of the backyard. "We experimented with a few of these Katy Skelton fixtures over the island, but in the end felt one was enough to have visual impact without overwhelming the space," says Scully. "The small pendant over the dining table connects with the cabinets and adds another element of fun."

And this designer is not afraid to mix metals. "There's an authenticity about it that makes it feel more collected and unique," says Scully. "There are a lot of metals needed in kitchen: appliances, sinks, faucets, lighting, and hardware. If everything matches,

it looks static and flat."

She adds that it is also almost impossible to match finishes within different brands. "It looks terrible when you try to match and miss," she adds. "I generally keep the sink/faucet and hardware in the silver family and use more organic metals in the lighting and furniture, as seen here."

Scully's favorite part of the kitchen is the backsplash tile (clé zellige) and the glass cabinet doors around the range. "The tile has a subtle iridescence, and the glass doors shimmer slightly, both of which loosely evoke seashells." This nods to the seaside location but is not overly beachy. "We were originally planning to do painted white doors, to break up all the wood, but the owner cleverly found a brochure lying around the cabinet suppliers' office, showing these doors," says Scully. "A proper mix of glossy and matte surfaces and different metal finishes gives that cohesive balance."



Photos by Kyle Caldwell