

Custom Home

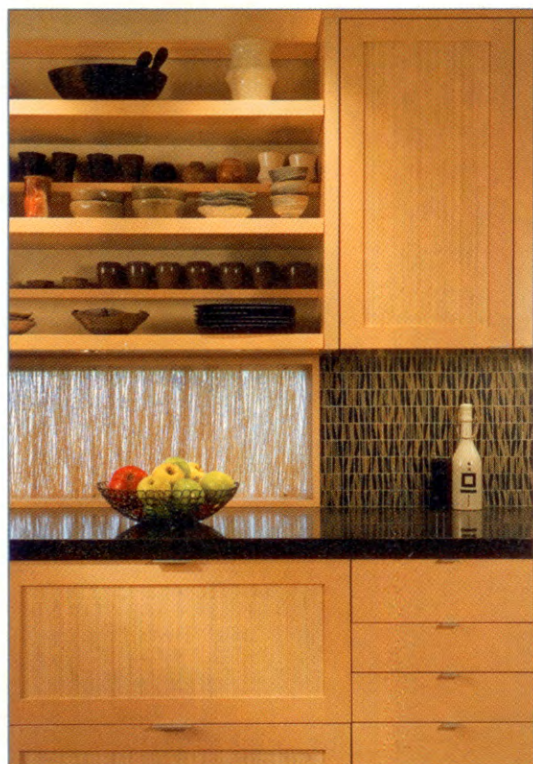
The Art and Craft of Custom Home Building ■ September/October 2008

2008 Product Showcase





Planks from the same elm tree top off the island and the matching dining table. The long outside edge was left raw for visual and tactile interest.



The owner of this Seattle kitchen remodel wanted more space with better light, but didn't want to feel like she was eating in a kitchen. Architect Nils Finne eliminated the dining and breakfast nook walls to create one contiguous

Kitchen Riches

640-square-foot space filled with stunningly crafted details and rich textural contrasts.

The kitchen's custom island is an example of Finne's "crafted Modernism" approach. Made of elm planks supported by steel legs, the island provides no place

to hide plumbing, wiring, and the disposal. To make those exposed guts look good, the architect spec'd blackened copper piping and a stainless steel disposal shroud. Electrical outlets hide underneath the countertop because there are no vertical surfaces. "The mechanics of an island are usually all hidden," Finne says, "and in this case nothing was."

Finne's preference for "textures and materials in opposition to each other" is expressed in panels of bamboo stalks set in smooth cedar cabinet door frames, seagrass embedded in a translucent resin panel that brightens a length of counter, and a backsplash of variegated stone tiles. Despite the varied patterns, an overall air of calm pervades the space.—*Shelley D. Hutchins*

Builder: Shultz-Miller Construction, Seattle; Architect: Nils Finne Architects, Seattle; Metal fabricator: Illume, Seattle; Photographer: Benjamin Benschneider.



For this elegant master bath, architect Nils Finne chose pale hues to balance the rich wood ceiling and cherry cabinets. Sand-colored limestone tiles cover the floor and extend 8 feet up the walls to “create a space within the space,” says the architect. Custom glass mosaics in irregular strips on the floor “break up that stone wrapper,” he adds.

Light Magic

Glass in several forms adds to the room’s airy, open feeling. Finne mixed sandblasted and clear glass panels for the steam shower enclosure to “create a play of translucency and transparency.” The shower’s glass ceiling is slightly canted from front to back so condensation won’t drip straight down. A pivoting transom above the door vents the shower. Echoing the alternating shower panels, sandblasted glass panels cover the fluorescent lamps that alternate with the twin vanity mirrors “for greater diffusion of light,” the architect explains.—*S.D.H.*

Builder: Schilperoot & Brooks General Contractors, Mountlake Terrace, Wash.; Architect: Finne Architects, Seattle; Photographer: Benjamin Beischneider.

Glass mosaic tiles in shades of blue-green add a touch of color to the limestone floor, the bathtub surround, and the shower floor.