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KITCHEN

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Breath of fresh air

Visual continuity is a key feature of this 1950s house, which was extensively remodeled to create a spacious, light-filled kitchen-family room







Preceding pages: Natural wood is paired with weathered steel in this remodeled kitchen and family living area. The steel wall panels were left to weather outdoors for several weeks before installation.

Above: Designed by architect Nils Finne, the cherry cabinets feature routed cherry inserts.

Facing page: With two sinks, the kitchen is designed so more than one person can work at the same time.

Vintage '50s modernity meets post-industrial chic – that could well be a description of the architectural language that defines this project.

Architect Nils Finne of Finne Architects says although the extensive remodeling of the '50s house builds on the original architectural style, the project required an almost total rebuild of the interior.

"Some key features were retained, such as the exposed beam ceiling in the kitchen and family living area and the terrazzo floors," he says. "Everything else was gutted, and replaced to create a home better suited to modern living."

The kitchen was extended by several feet and fully opened up to the dining and family living areas. New, larger windows were added to maximize an attractive wooded outlook, and an existing skylight was replaced with clerestory windows.

Finne says the owners expressed interest in highly detailed handcrafted cabinetry, as opposed to a more sterile, minimalist look. Working closely with the clients, Finne designed custom cherry cabinetry with inset panels in a woven wood pattern.

"This design involved rather a lot of



Architect: Finne Architects (Seattle, WA), Nils Finne AIA, design principal, Brad Gassman, project manager

Builder: Schultz Miller

Kitchen manufacturer: Taylor-made Cabinetry & Furniture

Cabinetry: Natural cherry cabinets with CNC milled texture and clear finish

Countertops: Silestone by Cosentino; Cast glass by Glassworks

Backsplash: Selvaggio stone mosaic by Ann Sacks Tile & Stone

Flooring: New Terrazzo with custom color by General Terrazzo & Tile

Doors and windows: Aluminum-clad Douglas fir by Eagle

Bar stools: Custom steel with cattail rush seats designed by Nils Finne

Dining furniture: Reclaimed elm and steel, custom designed by Nils Finne; custom dining chairs by John Thoe

Lighting: Troms pendants designed by Nils Finne; Bruck kitchen pendants

Blinds: MechoShade

Sink: Elkay

Faucets: Hansgrohe

Oven and dishwasher: Miele

Refrigeration: Miele; Perlick undercounter

Cooktop: Gaggenau

Ventilation: Vent-A-Hood



Above: Uplights in the base of the island illuminate a cast glass bar top suspended on steel supports.

Above right: Large windows were added to maximize the outlook and natural light. The customization of the interior extends to the light fixtures, which were designed by the architect.

Story by Colleen Hawkes

Photography by Ben Benschneider

prototyping,” says the architect. “The panels were created using sophisticated CNC routing machinery. All the panels are 18in high – this meant we could order a continuous run, which provided efficiencies.

“For continuity, we introduced similar cherry and resin cabinets to a dramatic accent wall clad in weathered steel panels. The cabinets appear to float against the steel wall, which undulates in and out, creating a very sculptural presence. Visually, this helps to tie together the kitchen and dining area. Similar cabinets also feature in the bathrooms.”

Finne says the larger cabinets and the panels on the integrated refrigerator have a smooth finish that contrasts with the textured panels, further emphasizing their difference.

The cherry cabinets are paired with quartz countertops in an earth tone that complements the terrazzo floor. In contrast, the bar counter features one-inch-thick cast glass on exposed steel supports. The cloud-like glass is illuminated by uplights in the island cabinetry.



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