

winner **kitchen design**

personal touch



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PHOTOGRAPHS BY MICHAEL BIONDO

Sometimes the best design develops over time. Architect Amanda Martocchio waited ten years before creating her dream kitchen. When she and her family first moved into their century-old New Canaan home a decade ago, the kitchen was newly refinished, so they decided to live with it for a while. “It was nicely done but not to our taste,” says Martocchio. “It didn’t have a connection to the outdoors.” During a recent renovation, Martocchio not only linked the kitchen’s new eating area to the beautiful backyard via large sliding doors, she also maintained the house’s vintage character while designing a clean, light-filled kitchen that’s fresh and contemporary. The new layout meant flipping the kitchen—swapping the working space, which was once by the window, and dining area—and opening up walls, which required some structural gymnastics.

In the new kitchen, minimalist cabinets custom-designed by Martocchio and finished in white lacquer, give the space a seamless feel. “I was thinking of the cabinets more like walls, quiet and serene as a backdrop,” she says. Refrigerators are integrated into the cabinetry, which extends into the former pantry, providing ample storage (at first, they used Post-It notes to remember what’s behind each door). The original wood-burning fireplace was transformed into a cooking hearth and a focal point, with a surround of linear stone to generate contrast and texture. Counters are sleek polished concrete, while the cooktop backsplash, desktop and bookshelves are lined in blackened steel, a material that has a warm patina. “People shy away from modern because they think it’s going to be cold,” says Martocchio, “but with these interesting materials, it’s really quite warm.” —MKH



Bleached-oak floors bring a warm touch to the light-filled space that Martocchio and her family will enjoy for years to come.

