



PHOTOGRAPHY: NICK NOVELLI

light, airy & low maintenance

THE SIZZLE COMES FROM THE COFFEE-COLORED GLASS TILES

WISH LIST

- Dine in kitchen and look out and enjoy views of Lake Michigan
- Built-in wine storage
- Light and airy

When a couple moved into a condo in downtown Chicago 20 years ago, they selected Crema Marfil marble floors for most of the unit. The flooring and the exceptional views of Lake Michigan have been an incentive to stay put and undertake a major rehab rather than move. And when they started their planning, they also decided to put in flooring in the kitchen that would look similar to the marble but be more practical for cooking and casual eating.

The choice that went down—a white oak floor stained white, glazed and laid on a diagonal to make the room look larger—did far more.

It inspired the color palette of the entire room's redo, led by a trio of design experts: Cheryl Daugvila of Cheryl D. Kitchens, interior designer Mary Susan Bicicchi, ASID, of Interiors by Mary Susan and contractor Paul Glazer (Glazar) of Glazar LLC. From the bottom up, the designers picked mostly light-colored materials to keep the kitchen spacious feeling, but they selected some dark accents for contrast, plus zippy tile patterns for razzle-dazzle. Upper cabinets were constructed from maple and stained off-white but have olive-ash burl inset panels for character and depth; a few also have glass-fronted doors. Lower cabinets were crafted from cherry for contrast and stained a rich espresso brown. All the countertops, including the island, reveal creamy honed quartz Silestone tops that match the upper cabinets in appearance and are also low maintenance. "The owners wanted easy care, and in my view quartz is the easiest material to take care of and something you don't easily tire of," says Bicicchi. The island is large enough both for sitting at and setting out buffets for company. The room's sizzle comes from amber, champagne and brown-colored tiles made of glass and porcelain that line the backsplash behind the range. The same amber glass in a different horizontal shape covers the adjacent backsplash.

In the eating area by the window, which overlooks Lake Michigan, only minimal space was left for a table, so the designers had a rectangular one custom built from glass and cherry wood, stained espresso like the lower cabinets. The table's rectilinear shape was repeated in a light fixture above. For continuity, both chairs and stools were upholstered in the same faux leather material, and walls were painted warm orange for some additional spark and to match the amber.





Two different back-splashes add zip in the otherwise quietly elegant kitchen.

LEFT: A small table occupies a front row view of Lake Michigan.

DESIGNERS:
Mary Susan Bicchichi, ASID
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LOCATION: Chicago, IL

DIMENSIONS:
14½' x 16'

>>> SPECIAL FEATURES:

Glass- and porcelain-tiled back-splash; Two tones for cabinets; Olive-ash burl inserts on all the cabinet doors

PRODUCTS USED:

- Refrigerator/freezer: Sub-Zero
- Wall oven, microwave speed oven, dishwasher: Miele
- Cooktop: Wolf Induction
- Hood: Best Power Pack
- Cabinetry: Custom designed by Cheryl D. Kitchens, with maple for upper with olive-ash burl insets glazed to match Crema

- Marfil floor, and lower cabinets from cherry with olive-ash burl inserts
- Countertops: Silestone, Capri Limestone
- Handles: Satin nickel, Top Knobs purchased at Clark & Barlow, Chicago IL,
- Floor: White Oak, stained and glazed to match upper cabinets, creamy color, constructed by Paul Glazar LLC, LaGrange IL
- Pendant light over table: Bruck, Lumina Galleries