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Modern Makeover

Chic FINISHES, rich WOODS and custom TOUCHES update this traditional kitchen



this spread: Traditional cherry cabinetry gave way to horizontal fumed-oak, grain-matched veneer in the main kitchen.

Age and style of home: Georgian Colonial built in 2001

Length of renovation: Three months

Setting the scene: The original kitchen had a traditional cherry perimeter, with a distressed painted island with seating straight across the back and a seated desk.

Design concept: The clients wanted a streamlined, modern kitchen with a sophisticated look and durable materials. They wanted a space conducive for cooking, entertaining and eating.

What launched the design: Interior designer Douglas Lederman and I looked through inspirational photos and started pulling samples that I had to develop the look.

Making an impact: The updated finishes and beautiful rich wood veneers make the space. The kitchen has a horizontal fumed-oak, grain-matched veneer, and the butler's pantry is fumed eucalyptus in a high gloss. With the kitchen's high-gloss white upper cabinetry, slab backsplash and counters, the space feels light and bright.



this spread: The butler's pantry boasts fumed eucalyptus in a high sheen and Taj Mahal quartzite countertops. In the main kitchen, a built-in TV above the steam oven hinges out, revealing storage behind it.



Favorite/unique feature: There is a built-in TV above the steam oven that hinges out with tray storage behind it. It's at perfect viewing height, visible by people sitting at the island and cooking, without sacrificing storage space.

Biggest challenge: There weren't any real challenges, but we did need to incorporate twelve appliances without it looking too kitchen-y.

A signature touch: Rather than a specific look or item, my signature touch is working closely with each client to create a space that will best suit their needs.

A special request fulfilled: To organize the cabinetry with custom interior accessories for optimum organization and specialized cooking gadgets and small appliances.

Resources:

Kitchen designer: Gianna Santoro, Deane, Inc., Stamford; 203-327-7008; deaneinc.com

Interior designer: Douglas Lederman, Audrey Sundheimer Interiors, Old Greenwich; 203-698-2269

Builder: Al-Jon Construction Corporation, Croton-on-Hudson, NY; 914-329-5520