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MARIA MATLUCK DESIGNS

PHOTOS BY VENERA ALEXandroVA

A modern kitchen featuring white shaker-style cabinets with brass knobs and pulls. The countertop is white, and the backsplash is made of light-colored, vertically oriented rectangular tiles. A stainless steel Wolf range is installed on the counter. A central island has a dark blue base and a thick, light-colored marble countertop. On the island, there is a brass faucet, a cutting board with lemons, a pitcher of lemon juice, and a plate of lemons. Three glass pendant lights with brass hardware hang over the island. A blue door is visible in the background. The floor is made of light-colored, large-format tiles.

KITCHENS
AND BATHS

STORIES BY HUNTER POWELL + KATHLEEN SYRON



The owners of a recently purchased home in Weston, CT, met with Maria Matluck of Maria Matluck Designs in Norwalk on the recommendation of a local design organization. The homeowners had recently sold their house in Westport and were downsizing to the Weston residence. Although they were moving to a smaller house, Maria's clients still wanted all the modern conveniences of their previous kitchen, which they had lovingly restored 20 years earlier and was still dear to them. The clients are talented home cooks and enjoy entertaining, so a properly organized layout was a primary goal.

Maria realized the couple would need more than updated fixtures and appliances. The must-have list also included more storage, a mudroom and a laundry area, so a complete revamp of the space was needed. Maria brought in architect Andrew Bartolotta, AIA, of Studio Bartolotta, and the homeowners chose Kayl Builders, Inc.—the same builder who did their former kitchen 20 years ago! The design team worked together to give the



homeowners a kitchen they would love.

The low ceilings would need to be raised to create the visual impact the clients were after. Maria and Andrew decided to remove the faux beams and eliminate the skylight to bring the ceiling to its full height. When the homeowners expressed their concerns about the potential increases in costs and time, Maria described the benefits of making all changes at the same time: The increased light from raising the ceiling would eliminate the need for a new skylight, and the design team would be able to get bigger and better windows that can be raised to accommodate lower cabinets and expand the views to the surrounding landscape.

The larger windows hung at counter height gave the kitchen a whole wall of options they did not have previously. Maria cleverly took advantage of this opportunity to shift the kitchen to the left (closer to the windows) and built a room around the emptied space to accommodate the laundry and mudroom.

The walls of the newly formed laundry and mudroom also house the refrigerator and storage for the homeowners' sets of dishes. Maria moved the cooktop and oven to the back wall, which was previously composed of large closets, and replaced the sink under the new windows. She added an island in place of the eat-in area of the original kitchen. The clients wanted to have a little fun with the island, so they chose a periwinkle color and a layout that allows for seating on three sides. The glass pendant lights over the island are nearly invisible, which leaves the kitchen open and clean. Other than the island, the kitchen is done in bright white and shades of gray. The design team replaced the Saltillo floor tiles with a porcelain tile of cool gray to keep the space open and light. The cabinets and wall color are a bright white and the backsplash is a gray glass, mimicking the floor. The star of the show is the island countertop of London gray quartzite, creatively matched with the white quartz around the perimeter.





Maria also packed the new kitchen with numerous other features, including two dishwashers, two ovens, a dry bar, a coffee bar and extensive storage for the family's many china sets.

Resources

Kitchen Design + Cabinet Design

Maria Matluck Designs

Maria Matluck

203.858.7762

mariamatluckcc.com

Architect

Studio Bartolotta

50 Sunset Drive

Weston, CT 06883

203.856.8211

studiobartolotta.archi

Builder

Kayl Builders

68 Ceil Rd

Trumbull, CT 06611

203.371.5286

Appliances

Aitoro Appliance

401 Westport Avenue

Norwalk, CT 06851

203.847.2471

aitoro.com



Architecture: Mark P. Finlay Architects, AIA
Photography: Peter Murdoch



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