

KITCHEN

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Character strengths

This remodeled kitchen is shaped by the disparate tastes of its owners and a quest to improve connections to the surrounding spaces



He prefers one look for their kitchen, while she favors quite another. Creating a design that keeps both of them happy can be tricky, but it can be achieved with close attention to tone and detail.

This kitchen remodel by interior designer and co-owner Reiko Lewis of Ventus Design had to find just such a balance – her love of the clean-lined, modern European aesthetic needed to be set against her husband’s passion for Asian culture, and his desire to display artworks and objects collected on Eastern travels.

To cater to his preferences, the floor is in teak

and the cabinetry is in a rich walnut, says Lewis.

“Dark, rich wood is often featured in Asian interiors. In addition, I designed glass-fronted cabinets for the kitchen and the adjacent dining room in the same style – this helps draw the two spaces together and allows objects inside to still be on display.

“Then we painted the walls in a soft beige. This tone is also popular in Asian design and makes an appropriate backdrop for art.”

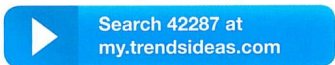
For her side of the equation, Lewis selected reflective mosaic tiles in bronze for the whole-wall backsplash. She also specified crisp white

Above: His and hers sensibilities dovetail in this contemporary remodel by co-owner and interior designer Reiko Lewis. Dark wood gives a classic Eastern feel, balanced by crisp lines, material contrasts and stainless steel appliances. Re-sited blade walls define the front of the space and are angled to optimize views to the ocean. Walnut on the curved counter matches the cabinets and plays off the white quartz of the countertop.

Architect: Sandi Quildon AIA, Phillips Quildon Architects (Honolulu)
Interior designer: Reiko Lewis ASID, IIDA, Ventus Design (Honolulu)
Builder and cabinet company: Darcey Builders
Cabinetry: Custom in American walnut
Countertops: Haiku quartz by Silestone, with polished finish, from Natural Stone Design
Flooring: Brazilian teak by Mullican Flooring from Pacific American Lumber
Wall tiles: Savoy Bronze mosaic tiles from Ann Sacks
Doors and windows: Darcey Builders
Kitchen furniture: Designed by Ventus Design, constructed by Darcey Builders
Dining furniture: Wing-flap dining table by Molteni & C; Glove dining chairs
Lighting: Leucos USA
Kitchen sink: Kohler in stainless steel from Ferguson Honolulu
Faucets: Axor Citterio by Hansgrohe
Oven, cooktop, refrigeration and dishwasher: Viking
Ventilation: Miele
Microwave: Microwave In A Drawer by Dacor
Water dispenser: Water Inc
Waste disposal: InSinkErator

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Top right: A new opening was created between the blade walls, providing an easy connection to the living area and entry space.

Above right: The graceful curves of the kitchen are picked up in the range hood. An Asian-style screen shields kitchen mess from visitors.

Facing page: Most countertops are 36in high, but this new circular island is only 30in tall – a height that suits one of the owners.

quartz countertops to create a dramatic contrast to the predominating wood tones. Faucets and hardware are modern and minimalist.

“The sleek stainless steel appliances are also part of the European aesthetic,” says Lewis

While the curved shape of the kitchen had to be retained for structural reasons, the designer did tweak the layout to optimize connections.

“I moved the cooktop to the rear counter and relocated the sink, so we could prep and chat to guests at the same time. Importantly, I re-angled the blade columns to maximize the sea views, which are also reflected in the glass cabinets.

“To improve the flow to the living room, I created a gap in the counter. Before the remodeling, the entry looked straight into the kitchen. To avoid this, I introduced a pantry on that side of the space and added an Asian-style lattice screen. This helps to hide clutter from arriving guests without blocking valuable cross ventilation.”

As a finishing touch, a small circular island was introduced in the middle of the room. This reinforces the curved theme, provides central storage for pots and pans, and functions as a handy landing space.

