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DESIGN BY THE JONATHANS





A spectacular remodel of a 1920s beach bungalow in Milford, CT, gave two law enforcement officers a stunning kitchen with sophistication, poise and a unique focal point—a fusion quartzite backsplash with a dramatic swoosh.

The naturally intense colors in the backsplash—greens, turquoise, purples, rust, grays and blacks—lend themselves organically to the matching countertops and distinctive black quartz sink in the island, which Jonathan Gordon of Design by the Jonathans says is “pretty much impervious to everything.” The modern-style bridge faucet in matte black and the art-glass pendant lighting with a modified finish—from stainless steel to matte black—work in unison to accentuate the stone backsplash. “The glass itself mimics the stone in such a way that it doesn’t detract from it,” Jonathan says. “It allows us to pull the elements straight in, without clashing and without it making it seem as if they’re fighting in any way.”



The glossy subway tile around the stone and the narrowed neck on the vented hood both play off the high-end appliances and give the stone a chance to shine within its own background vignette. “The high gloss is a beach feel, but leaves it to be innocuous and lets the stone do the talking,” Jonathan says. “It pulls off the beachy vibe but doesn’t scream ‘beach.’”

The light-colored wood cabinets, some with glass panels, the unique but utilitarian island





piano curve with coordinated curved edging, and the pickled and gray washed white oak flooring add to the sleek and seamless design of the functional yet beautiful kitchen.

That is what the homeowners asked of Jonathan—to create a functional space that gives a hint of beach, but not too much, which is a long way from the vibe of the prior kitchen. The kitchen's previous diminutive state necessitated opening walls to both the dining room and living room. The age and shape of the house—including evidence of a past fire that had burned some beams—required some foundation work, such as jacking up the sagging foundation, before work on the kitchen could begin.

“We accomplished what we set out to accomplish,” Jonathan says. “We gave two very hard-working people a retreat. It’s bright and open and has the ability to do whatever they want. And it has the beachy vibe without screaming ‘beach house.’”

Resources:

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