

DESIGN + DECOR

CONNECTICUT
NEW JERSEY
NEW YORK

THE KITCHEN ISSUE

HONING YOUR
MASTERPIECE



\$7.99 US/\$8.99 CANADA



DISPLAY UNTIL 06/13/22

JONATHAN GORDON
DESIGN BY THE JONATHANS
"MEET CHALLENGES WITH FLEXIBILITY"

Photography by Robert Norman





Jonathan Gordon, owner of Design by the Jonathans, found himself in the sensitive position of having friends for clients. A young family with a toddler and a baby on the way came to him to redesign their home to be more functional and cosmetically up-to-date. Although it might seem like having friends as clients would make the process easier, in reality it carries both pros and cons. But Jonathan, well aware of the situational jeopardy, treats his friends like any other clients. “They will get the same level of care, and the process will not change,” he says. “I may know them, yet still not have insight into what they really like and how they use their kitchen.” He succeeded in designing this kitchen by wiping the slate clean of any prior knowledge of the client or their home.

Jonathan starts with broad questions about the homeowner’s likes and pain points, and then digs deeper by asking about specific colors, appliances and style. Ultimately, he suggests design solutions for the client’s approval. Here, the existing kitchen was a U-shaped dead-end with no access to other parts of the home—as was the adjacent family room. Jonathan believes that “tastes are specific, but the need for functional space is universal,” so his first decision was to take down all the walls and combine the kitchen, dining and living areas. This opened up the space and gave him a clean palette to design the perfect kitchen.

The hallmark of Design by the Jonathans is kitchen utilization—as well as putting backsplash tile up and over the window for a more complete look—so it’s





paramount that all functional aspects are in place before the client decides on style. These particular homeowners knew what they wanted in terms of style—transitional with white cabinets—but were unsure how to accomplish their functional desires—access to the garage and a bigger powder room. Their questions for Jonathan all began with “How do we...?” Jonathan reconfigured the spaces adjacent to the new open floor plan by increasing the size of the powder room, eliminating the laundry room and creating a laundry closet, and giving the family access to the garage. These changes dictated the new kitchen/living/dining floor plan. He placed a large island in the center of their kitchen to provide seating for four. One of the clients’ “must-haves” was double wall ovens—somewhat challenging to accomplish in a relatively compact kitchen. Teamed with a pullout pantry, the ovens were similar in size to the refrigerator/freezer, so Jonathan placed these items on opposite ends of the kitchen for balance. The other features fell into place within those confines.

After completing the floor plan and functional aspects of the design, Jonathan started making material selections with the client on a big shopping day. Starting with the countertops, he and the homeowner first decided what stone would fit their design scope, and then moved on to the backsplash tile, plumbing, appliances, lighting and, finally, cabinetry. When Jonathan and his clients go shopping, they have ideas about material selections but are open to finding new pieces as well.

In this case, he and the homeowners were set on a marble herringbone backsplash until they found a beautiful, pillowy 3D fireplace tile. Since the fireplace and backsplash are in the same vicinity, it was important to keep their style complementary, so Jonathan and the homeowners opted for a similar marble backsplash tile in the kitchen. The clients also liked the look of a big wooden hood, which would not be appropriate for an island-based range, so they settled for a curved glass hood. Jonathan’s selections for the hardware cabinetry mimicked the curve of the hood.

“Our innovative design solutions come together within a collaborative environment,” says Jonathan. “We foster relationships between our clients and our team to make the whole process refreshingly enjoyable.”

Resource:

Design by the Jonathans
Jonathan Gordon
Jonathan Robner
85 Willow Street
New Haven, CT 06511
203.557.3205
thejonathans.com