

THE KITCHEN ISSUE 2025

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JONATHAN GORDON



Sometimes the most elegant solutions emerge from the most fundamental challenges. For the team at Design by the Jonathans, the ubiquitous “square kitchen” — long considered a spatial puzzle by designers — became an opportunity for innovation that would transform how a family experiences their home.

“Back in the day, there was the cooking triangle,” lead designer Jonathan Gordon explains, referencing the traditional sink-stove-refrigerator arrangement that worked perfectly in compact 10-foot by 10-foot spaces. “But when you’re dealing with a 20-something by 20-something room, you need to throw that mentality out the window.” The designer’s solution? A striking triangular island with waterfall edges at both ends, maximizing storage and creating feature views from any angle.

This seemingly simple geometric shift revolutionizes the kitchen. Other solutions, like dual islands, would have created awkward corridors, while a table would have consumed precious space that could be better utilized. This angular centerpiece



creates natural flow patterns while defining distinct zones for cooking, gathering and casual dining. The design proves that sometimes the best innovations aren't about adding complexity—they're about finding elegant simplicity.

The materials in the space were chosen with equal thoughtfulness. The countertops feature Taj Mahal quartzite, selected not just for its stunning appearance, but for its practically indestructible nature. It is a feature within the space, in which the color palette demonstrates an artistic balance of color, neutral tones, texture and pattern.

Slightly off-white upper cabinets maintain brightness while avoiding stark sterility, while the green lower cabinets and tower elements create visual anchors. A matching green hood with brass detailing echoes the range's metalwork below, creating vertical harmony that draws the eye upward. The intricate marble mosaic backsplash, which at first glance resembles wallpaper, adds detail without overwhelming the space.

Even appliance placement received fresh thinking. The



designer challenged conventional stacking by placing the microwave below the French door wall oven—a choice born from observing real-life usage patterns. "I've always found that reaching up into the microwave becomes difficult, especially for kids," he explains. It's this attention to how people actually live that elevates the design beyond mere aesthetics.

Perhaps most telling is Jonathan's gratitude toward his clients, who balanced clear vision with trust in the creative process. "They knew what they wanted, but trusted my creative vision," he reflects. "It wasn't just pictures of what they wanted—it was ideas of what they like, and they asked me to create it." The result is a space that feels both innovative and inevitable—proof that when expertise meets trust, extraordinary spaces emerge. ♦

Resource: Designer: Design by the Jonathan's; Jonathan Gordon, Founder, Owner & Lead Designer; New Haven, CT / 475.471.4103; thejonathans.com.