

"I WANTED THE



KITCHEN TO BE WARM AND NATURAL YET CONTEMPORARY"

A PERFECT BLEND

didn't want the house to look as if separate rooms had been renovated at different times over the years," says homeowner Jill McRae of her circa-1950s post-and-beam house and her plan for a new kitchen. What she needed was a seamless design that would work with her postmodern, open-plan home – a 21st-century kitchen for her 50-year-old house. It was a tall order to fill, but Vancouver designer Paula Arsens took up the challenge and made it happen.

Paula was inspired by design elements found in other areas of the house. For example, the new kitchen has grey-stained maple cabinets that match cabinets in the adjacent family room. A wall between the kitchen and dining areas was replaced with a breakfast bar and large pass-through. And by installing upper cabinets sparingly and providing plenty of clear-span counter space, including a homework/craft island for Jill's three children, Paula maintained the open-plan, minimalist air common to the rest of the home. Now, as Paula notes, the kitchen "looks like it has always been there and belongs." ■



To create a look that is at once warm and contemporary, homeowner Jill McRae and designer Paula Arsens mixed natural materials and modern conveniences. In a previously unused eating area, an island is used as a food prep area and homework/craft centre. In the workspace, Shaker-inspired maple cabinets are set off by stainless-steel appliances. The countertop material is Silestone – a durable manmade product composed of quartz and resin. The tumbled-marble backsplash echoes the floor tiles.



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