



PHOTOS: CHIPPER HATTER



sleek standout

A CLEAN, CONTEMPORARY DESIGN FITS STATE-OF-THE-ART EQUIPMENT INTO A LONG AND NARROW SPACE

WISH LIST

- Large multi-tiered island
- Breakfast seating for six
- Defined zones for clean-up, baking, cooking, eating, prep work

Designer Emily Mackie Norris of Inspired Interiors received an unusual challenge from clients in suburban Virginia. They hired her to remodel the kitchen of their traditional house into a contemporary space, but asked her to do so by working from photographs and three-dimensional models. The couple flew in twice to Chicago to see her plans progress. “It was extremely interesting from a design challenge and not a problem not being there,” she says.

The greater challenge was figuring out how to incorporate the multiple work stations the owners sought into the room’s long, narrow shape (15' x 5'6") as well as how to allow traffic to flow easily around the zones. But Norris did that, too. Near the main sink, a triple bowl, she incorporated a flat-screen TV. By the range on the long island, which Norris says made the room “110-percent efficient,” she included a second sink for prepping and a landing space close to the wall ovens. There’s also a large baking center nearby with a pop-up mixer; that zone is far enough away from the cooking equipment to keep multiple cooks out of the way of one another. The island also features casual seating and an upper tier for resting food items. A warming drawer was placed near the door to the dining room so that plates and dishes would remain hot. The main eating area for six, another request, has its own windowed corner with storage underneath the banquette.

The room’s clean modern lines feature two different cabinet materials, one in a creamy gloss laminate and the other in a light-colored wood that mimics quartersawn cherry but is really reconstituted veneer. Both are environmentally sensitive and constructed from recycled content. Color comes from the limestone rectangles on the floor, laid in a brick pattern; the Red Dragon granite on countertops and along the backsplashes; and the stainless steel hood with clear glass canopy. A pass-through links the main sink and dining room; pendants lights at various levels dangle above the dining table.

