



SLEEK CONTEMPORARY

This kitchen renovation made this Altadena Woods home a stand out.

THE TWO-STORY BRICK HOME IN ALTADENA WOODS IS MUCH LIKE THE OTHERS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD. Its exterior is brick, with a curved drive meeting the garage and front door. But inside, the decor defies the norm. Homeowners Melany and Mark Guzzo favor retro-modern furnishings and accessories with an edge and wanted their new kitchen to reflect their ideals. “It’s contemporary, but relaxed,” says contractor Erica Neel of Structures, Inc. who worked with Michael Morrow of MDM design studios and Doug and Melisha Durkee of Kitchen Design to pull together a look that is a little bit modern, a tad traditional, but uniquely their own. Working to reconfigure the existing space presented a few challenges. “Bringing the kitchen up to code was a big issue,” says Erica. “You always have surprises when you open up the walls.” Using simplicity as their guide and a metallic wallpaper to set the tone, frameless cabinets with solid and frosted glass insets, along with a wall of floating shelves, offer a striking pose. A blue LED light wraps the glass hood and a tiled backsplash gives the stainless appliances extra pop. The kitchen’s new attitude is sophisticated, dramatic, and exactly what this family with flair wanted.

“Our plan was to update the kitchen using an open, contemporary yet still warm design that included expanding the size of the windows and enlarging the opening to the keeping room without destroying the integrity and cozy feel of that space.”

—homeowner Mark Guzzo



resources: contractor: **ERICA NEEL, STRUCTURES, INC** 205.663.4252 • www.structureshomes.com project manager: **WILL KINNEBREW, STRUCTURES, INC** kitchen concept: **MELANY R. GUZZO INTERIORS** • custom cabinets: **MICHAEL MORROW, MDM DESIGN STUDIO** 205.266.3905 • www.mdmdesignstudio.com • appliances and LED lighting: **ALLSOUTH APPLIANCE GROUP, INC** 866.942.0408 • www.allsouthappliance.net • LED lighting beneath shelves: **MAYER ELECTRIC** 205.583.3400 • www.mayerelectric.com tile and fixtures: **KENNY & COMPANY** 205.323.5616 • www.kennycompany.com paint: **PRECISION PAINTING & DECORATING** • 205.243.1797 • floors: **KEVIN DODGE FLOORING** 205.369.2029 countertops: **BIRMINGHAM MARBLE WORKS, LLC** 205.988.5585 • windows and doors: **KEYSTONE ARCHITECTURAL MILLWORKS, INC.** 205.621.1160 • cabinet hardware: **BRANDINO BRASS** 205.978.8900 • tile installation: **HANNAH TILE** 205.965.7001



LED lights illuminate floating shelves to the right of the kitchen sink. Michael Morrow of MDM designs created custom cabinets that are the perfect combination of sleek, traditional, and totally efficient. A perfectly smooth, curved edge on the island softens the corner and shows his attention to craftsmanship. The cabinet's walnut finish contrasts the creamy colored bar cabinet—a stand alone piece that holds a coffee bar and wine rack for entertaining.

