



Creating Happiness: 3 takes on the modern kitchen.

TODAY'S KITCHEN IS A FAR CRY from the tiny, cramped spaces of half a century ago, ones where appliances followed no rules, refrigerators and ranges bursting from a line of cabinetry and looking like they seriously need lap-band surgery. Kitchens where 'good lighting' meant buzzing fluorescent under-counter fixtures.

In the same way that architect Frank Lloyd Wright made the hearth the center of family life in the late 19th century, today's architects have acknowledged that the well designed, open kitchen has taken on that role in the 21st. No dark, *Downton Abbey* sculleries will be found on these pages, just beautiful, open kitchens with incredibly well thought out spatial planning and lighting.

PowersSchram Architects created a stunning, soaring space for an open-plan, kitchen/dining space overlooking the Intracoastal that we chose for its perfect-for-entertaining style. We've also published a subtle beauty created by *Webber + Studio Architects* out of Austin, Texas - a kitchen that is both exacting in detail and wonderfully humanizing in feel. Out of Miami comes the work of *Den Architecture* and a brilliant kitchen remodel that goes from morning work to evening drama without needing a change of clothes.

After you've given these your close attention, be sure to take a look at *backSLASH*, the accompanying article on exceptional tile and stone materials guaranteed to punch up your kitchen.

3 selections

WAC 3- Light, LED White Directional Recessed Light, Planet Lighting, Miami.

Grohe Essence pull out faucet in stainless steel, through Designers Plumbing Studio of DCoTA.

Sara Grande low voltage pendant lights are formed from a solid block of lead crystal. Through Jolo Enterprises at DCoTA.

WHEN DEN ARCHITECTURE was asked to remodel this Pinecrest kitchen, they realized to do so would require a radical departure from the existing layout of the house. Walls were erased to create an open layout, connecting the new kitchen to dining and family rooms in the process.

To connect the new space to its dense, tropical setting, the team at Den drew from the coconut for inspiration. After you've been told, it becomes instantly apparent: The dark, rich wood of the cabinetry represents the shell, and the thin, coconut meat interior is represented by gloss white of the work areas and the quartz material selected for countertops and dining table. Polished, 24" square marble covers the floors, creating continuity for kitchen, dining and family room beyond.

The showcased work areas light color and energy-efficient LED lights, make meal preparation an easy to see experience, day or evening. Countertops of ½" depth are perfect, using half the material normally specified in showy kitchens. In the evening, with the work lights off and candles on the table, the warm marble and rich wood create a great informal, evening experience.

