

CITY & SHORE

Magazine

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The Recipe for a Great Kitchen

BY CHARLYNE VARKONYI SCHAUB

Many South Florida kitchens are large, filled with expensive appliances and cabinets that look like fine furniture.

But these days homeowners are using three new words when they describe what they want – white, clean and green.





GREEN AND ECO-CONSCIOUS

Clean lines and eco-consciousness are combined in a kitchen designed by German Brun, co-owner of DEN Architecture in Miami, which specialized in environmentally friendly green design.

“The clients, a young couple who loved to cook and entertain, wanted something that was green, clean, modern and timeless,” Brun says.

The kitchen, in a 1970s house in Pinecrest near Miami, was originally enclosed by full-height cabinets and walls. Brun’s team demolished the walls, opening the kitchen to the dining and family rooms. In order to avoid further demolition, the original plumbing connections were used.

“Coconut palms are very common in this part of Miami,” Brun says. “We thought it would be a great starting point for a design idea to replicate a coconut split in half. The brown exterior is rustic, and the interior is soft and creamy.”

The 25-by-15 foot kitchen was designed with high gloss white surfaces to maximize daylight and light reflection, he says. Under the cabinets he added LED strip lights, which consume 50 percent less energy, and painted the walls with low VOC paint. The cabinets are constructed of FSC-certified (Forest Stewardship Council) plywood with domestic veneers. The quartz countertops and backsplashes are ½-inch thick, which saves one half of the material kitchen designers typically use. The pendant lamps are low voltage and framed with white to reflect the light.

The Parsons-style table, which is integrated into the cabinetry, serves as a transition between the kitchen and family room. And because the clients didn’t want the cabinets cluttered with too many handles, Brun found aluminum pulls and placed them side by side so they appear as one.

German Brun of DEN Architecture in Miami created this clean and green kitchen in Pinecrest with eco-friendly cabinets custom made by Artepractico Corporation in Miami. Notice how separate handles are aligned to appear as one. Photo by Greg Clark