

# DESIGN + DECOR

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**K**itchens are created for cooks, but not all cooks are created equal. For this gorgeous, modern, open-concept kitchen designed and executed by Michael Moritz of Stonewater Architecture, the client had very specific functional requirements.

“The home is a very traditional center hall colonial,” says Michael. The clients, a young couple with children, maintained the exterior to reflect the more traditional vibe of the neighborhood; the interior, however, is a true reflection of their edgier modern aesthetic. The old layout offered no view to the backyard, nor was it connected to the dining or living area. The client wanted to completely open up the space so the children would be in view at all times. In addition, the self-described yogi and healthful eater also required a simple and streamlined design to serve as a back-drop for her food prep, drying and processing. Previously, there was no storage space for all her tools and equipment, and an additional refrigerator was stored in the dining area.

The new layout offers unobstructed views of the living and dining rooms. A pantry behind the stove serves as a storage area for the client’s equipment, and an extension of her prep area. Children and visiting friends gather at the large island. Views of the backyard and private yoga studio are captured through the largest window that Marvin Windows manufactures. Pendant lighting over the island and recessed LED lighting in the ceiling illuminate walkways and work areas. There is also built-in lighting in the cabinetry. A pop-up ceiling above the window makes the room feel larger and allows natural daylight to flood the space.

The color scheme is absolutely Zen-like. The clients wanted a New York loft look, so all ceilings and walls are painted white to achieve this end. The oak flooring, from Carlisle, boasts a custom-colored, violet-tinged gray finish. For the cabinets, the clients chose a deep blue-colored finish from Poggenpohl called Diamond Grey, which provides a stark contrast to the white countertops and exposed steel beams. Contributing to the overall refined and streamlined look is the complete absence of casing, trim or baseboards.

“I really enjoyed the fact that this project was done without the use of any millwork,” says Michael. “It was exciting and challenging to be able to do everything with Sheetrock and Sheetrock reveals. Between the Sheetrock and baseboard, the windows and doors, and the ceilings and floors, you can’t hide any of your mistakes. This was the challenge—to make all these details refined and perfect, everything had to be level.” The finished product perfectly embodies the client’s aesthetic and lifestyle: clean lines for clean living.

*Resources:*

*Stonewater Architecture  
Michael A. Moritz  
Principal Architect  
99 Morningside Road  
Colonia, NJ 07067  
908.380.2496  
stonewaterarch.com*