



# Cool intrigue

With an eclectic mix of colors and lighting, this modern kitchen stirs the imagination

**F**inding a way to combine a clean modern look with the fizz of the unexpected comes down to simplicity and balance. That's the view of designer Deganit Albalak, who worked with architect Daren Shu on the remodeling of this Victorian house in Palo Alto, California.

The owners wanted a kitchen that was contemporary yet cozy, says Albalak, a designer with European Kitchen Design. The team's approach was to combine cool and lively colors, a mix of textures and finishes, and sleek cabinetry for a look that

she says is both relaxing and stimulating.

"The combination of creamy yellow, vanilla and charcoal grey offers a bright yet intimate feel," she says. "Changing ceiling heights in different areas also helps the kitchen to feel open and interesting."

Light has been used to add interest and depth. Daylight fills the kitchen through the skylights on both sides of the kitchen, while recessed lighting above the island gives a feeling of space and airiness.

The mid-tone wooden flooring provides a neutral backdrop for the space,

while an open glass panel for decorative pieces links the kitchen to the family room. Along with the soffit above, the panel helps to establish the island as a piece of furniture, rather than just a space for preparing food, says Albalak.

To balance the liveliness of the ocean-blue glass mosaic tile backsplash, an acid-washed limestone countertop was specified for its calm look and finish.

The matte laminate cabinetry, custom-made by Alno in Germany, was chosen for its functionality and its slim, simple lines.



Albalak says that Alno is known for its quality and service, and for designs that maximize the space around the kitchen.

"The Alno door style I chose for this kitchen is contemporary, clean and very simple – but when you blend that with the colors, lighting and ceiling heights, all of a sudden you've got a very different look," she says.

For details, contact European Kitchen Design, 4232 Camino Real, Palo Alto, CA 94306, phone (650) 843 0754. Email: [info@europeankitchendesign.com](mailto:info@europeankitchendesign.com).



**Facing page:** This modern kitchen, designed by European Kitchen Design, combines natural lighting, rich colors and sleek cabinetry for a relaxed look. The cabinetry, AlnoLook, is custom-made by Alno, a German kitchen furniture company.

**Above:** A glass panel links the two spaces while offering a space to display changing artwork.

**Left:** An interplay of color provides movement and interest, while the frosted glass-fronted cabinetry offers a contrast of textures.

Photography by Barak Yedidia.