COLORADO KITCHEN Confidential

How four homeowners and the architects and designers they hired overcame design challenges, from space flow issues to an actual flood. The upshot? Change isn't good. It's great.

by KATHRYN O'SHEA-EVANS

SLEEK & Smart

When Miranda Cullen of Duet Design Group began work on this newly built modern home in Cherry Hills Village, it was already beautiful—but perhaps a bit earnest. "The entire house was very calm, with warm textures, and the homeowner wanted to get playful with light fixtures and fabrics," Cullen says. "We were called in to add a warm mix of textures and furnishings to the tonal palette." To wit: Her team collaborated

with the architect, Kansas City's Hufft Projects, and Denver's William Ohs cabinet manufacturer to brighten up the space by incorporating walnut cabinets and a light oak finish on the ceiling; smoky glass cabinet doors and a custom stainless-steel hood by Weld-Wright Fabricators reflect the natural light that filters through the windows. Cullen selected Moooi's Heracleum II pendants with twinkling LED bulbs, which dangle over the island, for their leafy look, and Bretano leather—"basically, kid-friendly vinyl"—for the banquette seats. But perhaps the most showstopping element is the fireplace, designed by the architect as a decorative screen. Form and function and a little fun? That's perfect design alchemy.

Design Pros

Architecture: Hufft Interior design: Miranda Cullen, Duet Design Group Cabinet design: Linda McLean and Mary Lynn Rockwell, William Ohs

photography by DAVID LAUER

DESIGN DETAIL

"We added back-painted glass—which has a smoky, non-reflective quality to the tall cabinets to the right of the sink," Cullen says of the space that contains the toaster, juicing station, and other tools. "The owner initially talked about using clear glass, but that was giving her anxiety. She didn't want to have to keep everything in the cabinets organized."