



All part of the menu

This bright, white kitchen takes its design cues from a dramatic remodel of the entire home



Above: This bright, white and gray kitchen is open to adjacent living spaces and looks directly out over a large rear garden. The simple material and tonal palette results from the architect's perception that domestic interiors should provide a calming respite from the gaudy colors of contemporary urban life.

The expression that nothing exists in isolation rings particularly true for the design of open-plan interiors. A kitchen open to the living room, the dining room and other public spaces needs to look as if it belongs from every angle.

Icelandic architect Bjorn Skaptason undertook a whole-house remodel that incorporated this large kitchen. The comprehensive rethink saw little but the original street facade and house structure remain. The owners, also from Iceland, wanted to replace the traditional interiors with clean, open living spaces throughout.

"Design motifs found elsewhere in the interior

continue in the kitchen," says Skaptason. "The home's simple tonal palette of white, gray and black combined with architectural detailing that accentuates the play of shadow and light are also in evidence here."

The kitchen reflects the interior's minimalist range of materials. Granite and contrasting dark walnut used as flooring in the rest of the house are found here too – on the floor, as a feature wall, and as countertops and a table top.

However, the owners wanted a heavy-duty feel for the kitchen and to address this Skaptason introduced stainless steel. As well as appliances,

including the feature, oversized island range hood, the entire bank of wall cabinetry is fronted in this shiny, professional-look material.

"The need for a hard-wearing kitchen dictated other elements, too," says Skaptason. "There are two dishwashers and sinks, and the large island is used for homework as well as food preparation."

The new kitchen's sleek, welcoming ambiance results from its scale and the minimalist treatment of both color and materials, the architect says.



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Above: Stainless steel cabinetry is a standout feature of the space. These reach all the way to the ceiling, partly to avoid the creation of trapped areas where dust might settle.

Left: An in-wall, see-through fireplace and a coffee-making area are two features of the open-plan kitchen.



Architect: Bjorn Skaptason, Atelier Arkitekta (Iceland)
Builder: S&H Construction
Excavating, site work, concrete: S+H Sitework Division; Beacon Site Developers and Consultants
Plumbing: Chase & Tolan
Paint: Piano 2 in matte white by Andrew's Painting
Flooring: Polished gray granite from CM Zottola, O'Hearn Tile, installed by Associated Stone & Tile Installers; Walnut Espresso from Patina Relics
Glass: Architectural glass from Commonwealth Glass
Cabinetry: Jonn Nonni Bergsveinsson
Lighting: Wever & Ducré
Kitchen sink, faucets: Franke
Oven: Wolf E Series built-in
Coffee maker: ????
Cooktop: Viking sealed burner rangetop, professional series
Microwave: Viking
Dishwasher: Miele Optima
Ventilation: Lifebreath HRV

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Photography by Jamie Cobeldick



Left: A black granite table noses into a gray granite countertop to create a playful surface feature without extending the range of materials used in the kitchen.

Above: Casual seating invites all members of the family to make use of the oversized central island.