



Photos: Eugenio Wilman

## GOLD

### SANDRA DIAZ-VELASCO

Eolo A&I Design, Inc., Miami, FL

The design of this Deering Bay, FL-based kitchen, created by Sandra Diaz-Velasco of Eolo A&I Design in Miami, was based on two specific needs of this busy mom: her desire to entertain, and her work as a professional caterer who uses the space for her business.

Each aspect demanded a total architectural renovation of the home, with the kitchen space as the key area. A modern and clean style that coordinated with the rest of the home was desired, and a focus on form and function was a must.

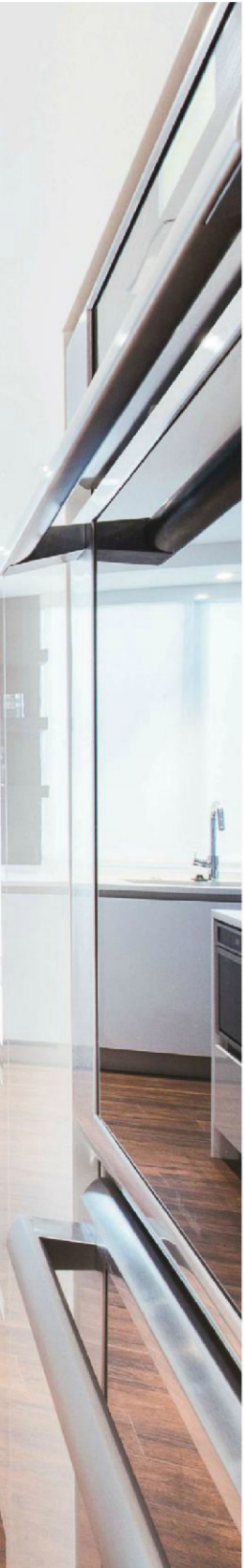
The original kitchen was closed off and confined, with the space broken between a small breakfast area and a corridor. Poor lighting and insufficient appliances were major drawbacks, as was a lack of storage for catering tools.

The completed kitchen is an industrial-like functional space with semi-industrial capacities. The clean white incorporated throughout the room – including the glossy frameless custom

cabinetry from Alonso Pereira Cabinets and Compac quartz countertops and backsplash in Absolute Blanc – needed to withstand stains and high-volume use. Striking a dramatic contrast with the stark white are dark open shelves and a drop ceiling panel, which add warmth to the space. Faux wood porcelain flooring from Cifre Ceramica also helps to ground the room.

Upgraded appliances were a must for the kitchen's catering function, and include a range hood, cooktop, double wall oven, microwave, refrigerator and freezer, all from Thermador, along with a Bosch dishwasher. The deep double stainless steel sink is from Franke, paired with a Kohler faucet.

For entertaining, the kitchen was opened up to the family room, and a kitchen island was installed to allow for comfortable guest seating. The island also provides an ample work surface for the owner's catering duties. A wine storage area was also added to the kitchen for use when entertaining guests.





Photos: Eugenio Winman

**SILVER**

**SANDRA DIAZ-VELASCO**  
 Eolo A&I Design, Inc., Miami, FL

Second-place honors in this category also went to Diaz-Velasco of Eolo A&I Design in Miami, who recreated the full interior of this 1970s condo for a California bachelor who works in Miami. The client's request was for a design that reflected his California style, but with a Miami flair, and for an open floor plan that would work well for entertaining clients and showcasing his art collection.

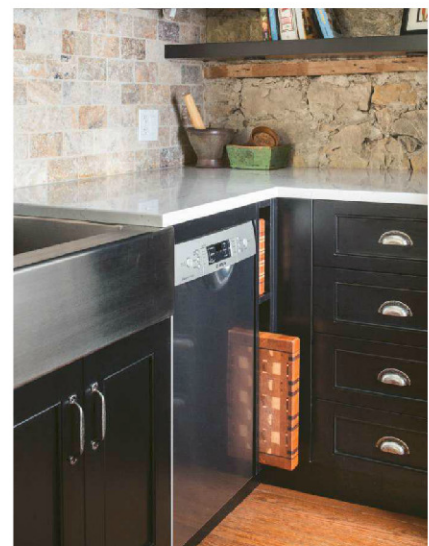
The original layout of the outdated two-bedroom apartment had the social area separated from the kitchen, a room that also lacked storage and functional lighting.

Diaz-Velasco began by opening up the space into the living area to allow for better flow when entertaining. The same flooring – oversized 24"x48" gray tile from Cifres Ceramica – was used throughout the space to provide a cohesive look.

The kitchen itself was separated into two areas – the back for storage, the front for entertaining. Along the rear wall are concealed floor-to-ceiling custom storage cabinets from Alonso Pereira, grouped with other similar objects and appliances. Included are a wall oven, microwave, cooktop and refrigerator from KitchenAid. A Bosch dishwasher is also featured in the space.

The front area, which connects to the open living room, includes custom lower cabinets, also from Alonso Pereira, artsy lighting and floating shelves for a clean, uncluttered look. Quartz surfacing in Coffee from Zetti, as well as a custom Stoneworks sink and Hansgrohe Talis faucet, are also featured. The Porcelain Calacatta backsplash from Marble of the World adds to the classic, art gallery-like design.





## BRONZE

**MARY BROWN; co-designer: MIKE BROWN**  
**Paragon Kitchens, Guelph, ON Canada**

At only 98 square feet, this kitchen – located in a century-old home in downtown Guelph, Ontario – needed to provide optimal function in a small space. The homeowners requested modern conveniences, such as the Faber exterior ventilating range hood, but wanted the design to pay homage to the home's original features.

Because it's a designated heritage home, co-designers Mary Brown and Mike Brown of Paragon Kitchens in Guelph also could not change the exterior façade, which meant doors and windows could not be moved. Unique quirks typical of an older home – limestone walls, 10' ceilings and a small, narrow footprint – posed challenges as well.

The designers began by choosing cabinet finishes that complemented the exposed limestone walls, and incorporating smaller stainless steel appliances, such as an 18" Bosch dishwasher and 24" built-in Gaggenau refrigerator, as well as a Thermador range. Black painted maple cabinets from

Miralis, French Cut with a recessed panel, were taken up to 8' for added storage. Universal Design elements, such as Movento Slides and Aventos Lift-Up Systems from Blum, and Sensys soft-close hinges from Hettich, were incorporated into the cabinetry to make it more functional. Floating shelves also allowed the limestone to shine as the backdrop for display items.

Cambria's Ella quartz countertop with Seacliff Micro Bevel Edge was used along the perimeter, paired with an Elkay apron-front sink and Kohler faucet, for an overall sleek design. To contrast, a live-edge, silver maple waterfall bar top from The Galt Wood Co. on the peninsula provides a natural element and echoes the original wood lintels of the home.