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PRUDENCE HOME AND DESIGN  
PRUDENCE BAILEY





The notion that it takes a design genius to recognize a truly brilliant designer may describe how Prudence Bailey's talent for creating spaces was discovered. When a leading interior designer was helping Prudence beautify her home, he quickly recognized her innate gift and uncommonly perceptive vision so essential to successful interior design. He asked Prudence to join his team—and bring her unique skill for intermingling traditional and modern styles. Though Prudence kindly declined the offer, she was prompted to carve her own path, exploring her dreams of interior design and launching the acclaimed firm, Prudence Home and Design.

"It was important for the clients to celebrate the historic nature of the home," Prudence explains of this residence she designed in Hamilton, NY. Elegant, artistic and budget-conscious, the finished project is proof of Prudence's remarkable ability to transform a space while working mostly remotely, as this house was five hours away from Prudence's office. She drew painstakingly precise plans, with every inch thoughtfully contemplated and considered. As it was the client's second home and occasional rental property, the materials she used had to be both luxuriously pleasing to the eye and highly durable for continuous use.

Prudence ensured that every space in this artistic kitchen was designated for a function. "That was really important," she says. "This is a family with four kids, and the homeowners wanted a kitchen where they could all spend time together and not feel crowded. I wanted to create some comfortable separation when they're all milling about, cooking and doing the dishes. There is a good amount of space at the large island, even with the stools. This is the heart of the home, where they spend the most time.



It had to be super-comfy and chic, but also very functional for a large family.”

The original kitchen was too small to comfortably fit a large family, and more space was required. Prudence dared to knock down walls to create space, resulting in an expansive and timeless look. “It never could have happened if we didn’t take out the wall and push farther out,” she says.

Artistic and elegant, this kitchen is anything but ordinary. What was it like for Prudence to step away from a traditional kitchen to create something fresh and inspiring—yet completely reflective of her client? “It’s not traditional, yet rather has an art gallery feel to it,” she explains. “It also has a vintage yet modern feel. I balanced the light and dark—versus all light or all dark—and I just love how it turned out. We didn’t fill the stove area with cabinetry; we added panels to the back wall and hung beautiful art. Leading with art is not the standard for kitchen design. The swooped decorative backsplash design was not something the stone fabricator had ever worked on before. The image on the wall of the girl smoking a cigarette is the client’s daughter recreating the famous photo of Brigitte Bardot.”

Indeed, in addition to being a work of fine art, this kitchen is optimally functional with intelligent hideaways for the appliances. “The refrigerator and freezer are hidden behind the cabinets; we also created a pantry cabinet,” says Prudence. “Plus, we’ve hidden other appliances that homeowners don’t want out; I always do that in a kitchen because it’s so useful.” Concealed behind the smooth cabinets is a full coffee station that seamlessly closes when not in use.





The look and feel of this kitchen certainly make it a conversation starter, with its attractive mix of luxury materials and finishes. Yet, since this is a second home, and often rented, the clients “didn’t want anything overly precious,” says Prudence. “The large island and decorative backsplash are quartz,” though “the island looks like luxury calacatta stone.” She adds, “The clients didn’t want to spend too much on lighting; the lights are big enough to serve the island, yet modern with a vintage feel. We also broke through a wall and used a lot of the brick for behind the sink. In the process, we discovered some historic secrets about the home, such as a forgotten door for cooks and servants.”

The finished kitchen is a perfect example of Prudence’s remarkable talent for blending modern and traditional styles to create a beautiful, functional space that is unique to her client.

*Resource:*

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