

## The Buildings & Energy Issue

*Mitsubishi Electric Cooling & Heating Revolutionizes the HVAC Industry and Saves Millions*

*Science + Sustainability: Pacific Northwest National Laboratory is Using Good R&D to Improve Our Built Environment*

**TPOLOGY: KITCHENS + BATHS  
WITH A SUSTAINABLE TWIST**

**IN CONVERSATION: BAIN & COMPANY'S  
MATT ABBOTT ON THE BUSINESS OF ENERGY**



New York NY 10169-1001

230 Park Ave Rm 1000

Robin Wilson Home

28 51 P2

\*\*\*\*\*AUTO\*\*SCH 3-DIGIT 100

PRSR STD  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Des Moines IA  
Permit No 4271

# A Writerly Retreat

*Design by Robin Wilson*



**There is, perhaps, no place on earth** where space is at as much of a premium as in New York City. Every inch of an apartment must be optimized to the fullest extent, lest one feel the concrete canyons crashing down around them. When experienced interior designer **Robin Wilson** took on a kitchen and bath remodel in New York's historic **Lincoln Center**, she knew space would be a concern, but she had no inkling of the other obstacles that would stack against her. All plans had to be approved by the building's board and completed within a tight, strict time schedule, while also meeting the client's budgetary restrictions.

That client was a bi-coastal novelist who was dissatisfied with the state of the kitchen and bathrooms in her Manhattan pied-a-terre. Additionally, she and her husband had exacting cleanliness standards and wanted a design that offered peace of mind, both as a workspace and as protection from foreign agents. Never one to shy away from a challenge, Wilson worked diligently to provide her client with an innovative, calming design.

She started by designing a creative cabinetry solution that allowed for additional storage in the space-starved kitchen. With a moderm tucked away in the cabinets, the room becomes a place where her client can comfortably set-up shop whenever inspiration strikes, and the open kitchen concept revolves around a central island that Wilson festooned with hidden electrical plugs. She also mounted halo LED strips inside the cabinetry—not only energy-efficient; the lights also emit a warm, natural color. Plus, all the lights in the home are connected via a radio dimmer, so Wilson's client can press a button on her phone and the house will be lit at a pre-determined level—a huge energy saver.

In deference to her clients' needs, bacteria-resistant **Silestone** by **Cosentino** quartz countertops and a **Kohler** undermount sink were installed to help make the kitchen a sanitary multi-use are. In the bathroom, efforts to create a germ-free space also reigned supreme. Wilson installed touch-



**TOP RIGHT** Bacterial-resistant **Cosentino** quartz countertops and a **Kohler** undermount sink were installed to help make the kitchen a sanitary multi-use space.

**BOTTOM RIGHT** A **Mr. Steam** shower unit that uses roughly half as much water as the previous fixture, was installed in the bathroom.

less Kohler fixtures wherever possible, including a low-flow toilet and a hands-free faucet that utilizes **WaterSense** technology, which creates the sensation of a big flow while actually saving H2O. This eco-friendly mindset also resulted in a **Mr. Steam** shower unit that uses roughly half as much water as the previous fixture.

Wilson's design philosophy is rooted in attention to the subtle details that make a space sustainable at any budget. For example, she carefully selects her fixtures while considering their carbon footprint, often choosing Kohler because they are manufactured and shipped directly from the US. This philosophy fit hand-in-glove with the Lincoln Center project. Despite the variety of challenges she faced, Wilson proudly completed the environmentally conscious project on-time, under budget, and to her client's lasting satisfaction.



PHOTOS: VANESSA LENZ