DESIGN +DECOR

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA















arely do interior spaces drive the design of the exterior architecture, but in this showstopping kitchen designed by Mick de Giulio, rules and boundaries were rewritten. For their newly built home in the coastal community of Tequesta, FL, the clients were open to a design that was rooted in the theme of transparency.

One distinct expression of this focus can be found in the range hood wall, which is cleverly framed by windows that look out onto water views. "We were able to get involved early in the process and work with the client to dictate architecturally where those windows would end up, so they were perfectly on axis with the hood," Mick recalls. "We didn't want the room to end there because you have such stunning views; that's why we designed the composition of the windows to go around the hood." Composed of Brazilian quartzite and finished with a polished stainless-steel edge, the panels to the left and right of the hood slide, allowing access to spices and other cooking essentials. The custom De Giulio hood is made of hand-scraped wenge wood, a richly hued tropical timber. Appliances housed in the area include an induction stove top from Wolf and a CookTek induction wok.

Professionally equipped appliances are thoughtfully integrated into the design. A Sub-Zero refrigerator, executed as an armoire, and refrigerator drawers and freezer are all De Giulio custom-paneled with a high-gloss eucalyptus finish and polished stainless-steel hardware. Additionally, a De Giulio Collection stainless-steel sink with teak cutting board is in the perimeter area, as well as a Multiere stainless sink from the Mick De Giulio Collection for Kallista. Both sinks have Kallista faucets in a nickel finish. Lower perimeter cabinetry is SieMatic BeauxArts, a collection designed by Mick and finished in magnolia white lacquer with polished stainless-steel hardware accents. Perhaps the pièce de résistance of the design—and the ultimate expression of transparency—is the glass-and-stainless corner cabinet.

The masterfully designed glass cabinets are exceptionally executed from both a design and an engineering standpoint. Custom-made in the in-house metal shop, the corner cabinet is completely pellucid along one wall, and the corner element is mirror-backed to reflect the open spaces. The entire construction literally hovers. "We worked with the builder to create a cantilevered steel base underneath to hold the

weight of the cabinet and its contents with no visible means of support," Mick notes. On the opposite wall, glass and polished stainless steel are employed to similar ends. The earthenware seems to float within the cabinetry. Beneath are mirror-fronted sliding doors that house small appliances, which when opened reveal pull-out stations. Similar attention is paid to lighting features. A sculpted ceiling houses lighting in the recessed perimeter, while translucent Stamen pendants from Niche Modern exude a diaphanous glow.

The theme prevails in the adjacent seating area, which is home to a stunning glass wine storage unit by Danmark Development. Comfortably elegant to serve as a breakfast area or to stage elegant dinners, the seating area boasts modern surfaces that complement more traditional elements, such as the De Giulio-designed hutch made of ebonized walnut and crystal hardware. A dazzling chandelier from Restoration Hardware crowns the area with a dance of spectral light.

A creative genius, Mick is incredibly humble and soft-spoken. "We didn't want to do just a 'nice' kitchen," he says. "The clients were enthusiastic to explore these compositions and unique themes that were very successful because of the collaboration between us, the client and the builder." Mick's métier is fostering connections and innovation to achieve extraordinary outcomes.

Resources:

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