

FIT TO BE TILED

THE BLUE-AND-WHITE feature on the back and side walls of this Barton Hills kitchen is *not*, as many people think, wallpaper. Rather, it’s a series of 8-inch-square cement tiles that interior designer Amity Worrel, who handled this renovation, found at Architerra Showroom and calls the “crowning glory” of the space and “so stunning in person that you can’t take your eyes off of it.”

Owned by a married couple with two children, the home and, specifically, the kitchen are often used for entertaining so the design emphasizes space and size. A large island, painted in Farrow & Ball’s Arsenic color, has enough drawers to store all the glasses and plates that aren’t used as decoration in the upper cabinets. The island also features a breakfast table, which is big enough for all four family members to sit at together.

“I’ve been there for a party,” Worrel says, “and there have been 12 adults around that island making curry and sampling scotches. Everybody fits comfortably in that kitchen.”

The inspiration for this kitchen comes from a photograph of an ancient kitchen in an old *World of Interiors* magazine article. The photo showed a pale blue-and-white tile on the wall and a turquoise green cabinet, and Worrel showed the article to the homeowner, who loved the look. “She could not be more thrilled [with the kitchen],” Worrel says.



Designed by Alterstudio, this kitchen has a relatively large amount of storage space and base cabinets so that the family could live without anything on the countertops. In addition, the kitchen island has a unique detail: the blizzard white Caesarstone countertop is turned down on both sides, all the way to the floor. “It’s just a much dressier look,” Alter says.

PAUL FINKEL (ICV); RYANN FORD



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ICY BLUE

VISITING MEGAN AND STEPHEN MULVA’S modern kitchen, in the Courtyard neighborhood just north of the Pennybacker Bridge, is like taking a trip to Antarctica. The blizzard white Caesarstone countertops play the role of the ice while the cabinetry, painted an ultramarine blue, plays the role of the water.

Part of a newly constructed home from Alterstudio Architecture, the kitchen also eschews upper cabinets to achieve an uncluttered look. “It’s not a huge kitchen,” says Kevin Alter, partner of Alterstudio, which handled the project, “but it feels pretty enormous because of the clean countertops and the lack of the stuff that makes a kitchen feel cramped, like upper cabinets.”

The kitchen also gives the Mulvas, who have a daughter, more space to move than normal. The aisle between the sink and the island is wider than standard, and the common work triangle concept (refrigerator, sink and stove all in a triangle to improve efficiency) has been abandoned for something more practical. “That triangle concept works really well for a chef when you really don’t want to walk back and forth all of the time,” Alter says. “But it works less well for a family—people who get in each other’s way.”