

Split-Level Reimagined | How to Mix Patterns | Midwinter Entertaining

# designNJ

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## Kitchens *for today*

UPDATING AN  
LBI VICTORIAN

UNIVERSAL  
DESIGN EVOLVES

MODERN  
CHINOISERIE



WRITTEN BY MARIROSE KRALL  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY PETER RYMWID  
KITCHEN DESIGN BY TESS GIULIANI, CKD

Though the kitchen in this Ridgewood residence is a mixture of textures, patterns and materials, the mostly monochromatic space is tranquil. Designer Tess Giuliani chose not to put trim around the window. "In this room there was so much interest elsewhere, trim was unnecessary and would have stopped the eye." The window faces a private garden, so window treatments aren't required.

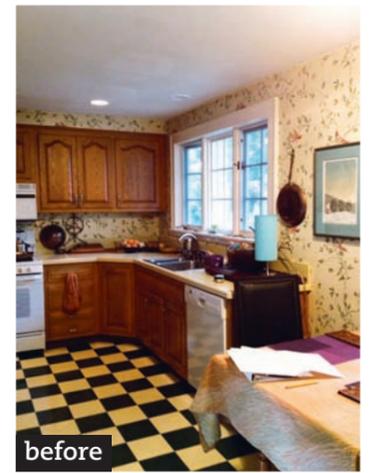


# Mixed Media

A SKILLFUL ASSEMBLAGE OF TEXTURES,  
TRANSFORMS A RIDGEWOOD KITCHEN  
TONES AND MATERIALS  
INTO A WORK OF ART



BEFORE PHOTOS BY TESS GIULIANI



**BEFORE** | The dated kitchen was badly in need of a complete overhaul. A small closet and an awkwardly placed tiny peninsula and upper cabinet were removed to create a smooth plane on the wall.



Giuliani designed the stainless steel cabinet with brass hardware. The Martins' china set, visible behind the leaded-glass doors, features complementary gold highlights. "Carol could see the play between the gold detail on the china and the brass hardware on the stainless steel cabinet," Giuliani says. "She has an amazing eye." The cabinet has no back. Rather, the wall behind it is covered in vertically set mother-of-pearl tiles.

**HIDDEN MICROWAVE** | The drawer microwave was hidden in the lower cabinet at the request of the homeowner. "I don't like to see appliances," she says. The mechanics required a bit of forethought. But "as long as the cabinet is designed with the required circulation space and the doors of the cabinetry are left open during operation, there's no problem," Giuliani says.

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hen Tom and Carol Martin embarked on a kitchen renovation in their 100-year-old cottage, they knew one thing. "They wanted to stay within the same footprint," says Tess Giuliani, a certified kitchen designer and owner of Tess Giuliani Designs Inc. in Ridgewood.

Carol Martin explains, "I decided early on against the typical opening up of the walls. I'm happy to be in my kitchen without making a spectacle of my cooking. I just wanted a beautiful room."

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To achieve that beautiful room, Giuliani first enlisted the services of Ulrich Inc., a Ridgewood remodeling firm. "They did a fabulous job implementing my design," she says. Next, she spoke with the Martins about

their vision for the space. Martin notes, "Tess encourages people to think about what they really love. It got me thinking: Who am I and what do I love? What do I want to be surrounded by?"

The answer? "It's art for sure."

With that in mind, Giuliani brought together a variety of appealing, visually interesting materials to outfit the kitchen. The floor is porcelain, however, "it's textured to look like old, grayed-out parquet," Giuliani says. It's also practical. "It wears like iron."

A walnut buffet — designed by Giuliani and made by Draper-DBS Cabinetry — figures prominently in the largely gray space. "Walnut is my favorite wood," Carol Martin says. In an unusual combination, a stainless steel cabinet tops the buffet. The custom creation is based on a circa-1900

cabinet Giuliani first saw on her college campus when she was a student.

The extensive assortment of materials is at the heart of this room's personality. The farm sink is handmade bronze; the vent over the range is stainless steel. The cabinet hardware represents a broad spectrum — nickel on the walnut buffet, dark bronze and walnut on the refrigerator, and leather and nickel pulls along with crystal knobs on the gray cabinets made by Wood-Mode Inc.

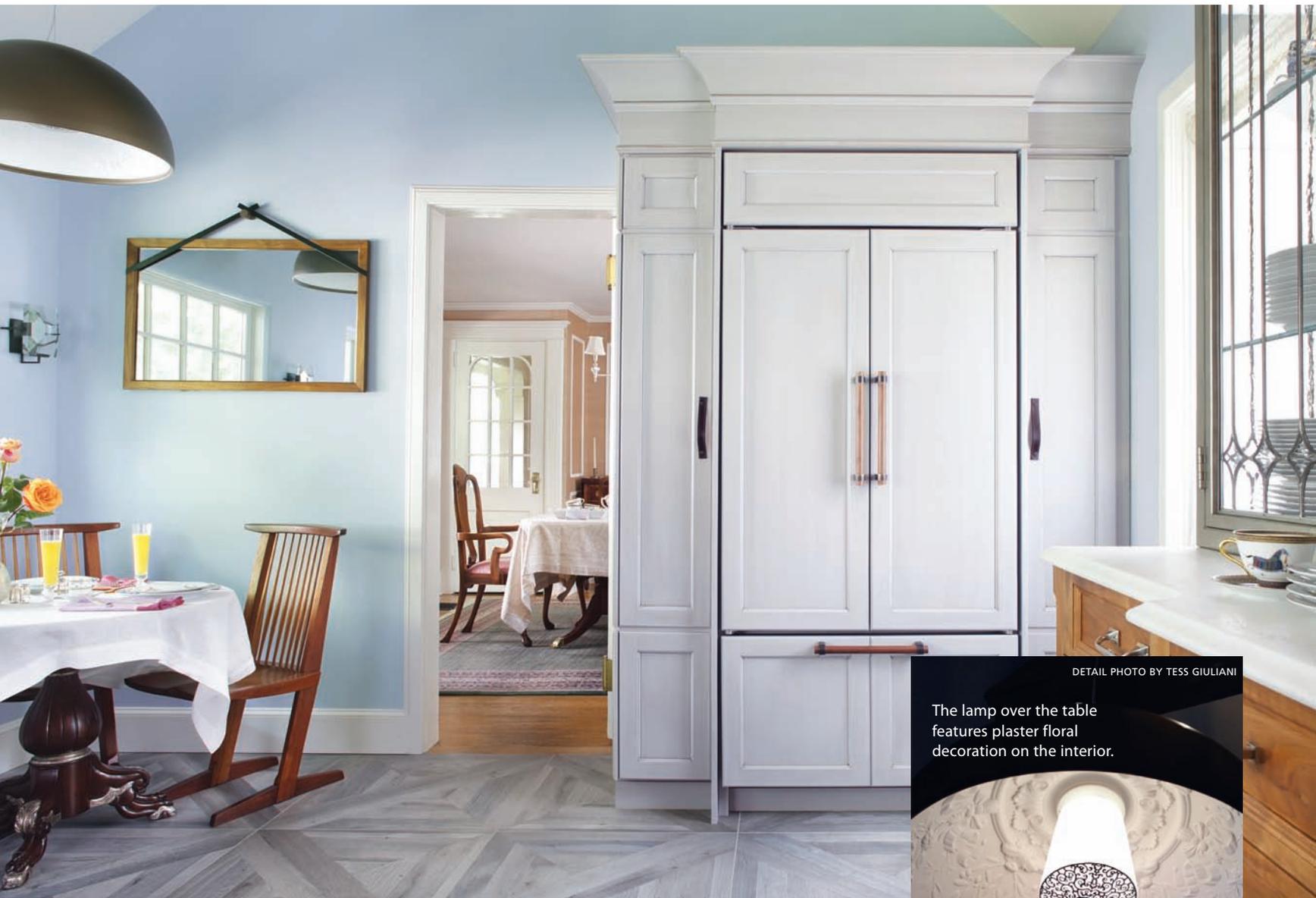
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These materials are elevated to a higher aesthetic level thanks to the careful consideration of illumination in the space. "Carol has an artistic eye and is sensitive to how light reflects in a room," Giuliani says. "She loves the play of light on objects."

Though the basic footprint of the room hasn't changed, the ceiling was raised to a height of 14½ feet, which helps give the room a bright and airy atmosphere and allows each surface to show off its luster. The backsplash, for instance, transforms with the changing light of day. "Depending on the way the light hits it, it goes from gold to silver," Giuliani says.

If light was a primary consideration, so was the absence of light. Martin points out, "The glass part of the buffet is not illuminated because I was afraid it would lose that old-fashioned simplicity." Giuliani says this kind of thoughtful deliberation helped make the redesign a success. "The homeowners have a strong, educated appreciation for handcrafted materials and extraordinarily good taste."

Carol has kind words for Giuliani as well. "She was amazingly patient



DETAIL PHOTO BY TESS GIULIANI

The lamp over the table features plaster floral decoration on the interior.



while I mentally meandered and found what I love. It was a fun process to work with her. We are very happy with the result. It's an art room that you can cook in. It's like my own little gallery." **DNJ**

SOURCES kitchen design, Tess Giuliani, CKD, Tess Giuliani Designs Inc. in Ridgewood; remodeling, Ulrich Inc. in Ridgewood; custom stainless steel leaded-glass cabinet with brass pulls, designed by Tess Giuliani and made by Artique Glass Studio Inc. in Glen Rock; custom walnut buffet, designed by Tess Giuliani and made by Draper—DBS Cabinetry in Perkasio, Pennsylvania; drawer microwave, Wolf; range, La Cornue; stainless steel hood, "Okeanito" from the Cheng Collection for Zephyr Ventilation in Alameda, California; handmade bronze farm sink, Sun Valley Bronze in Bellevue, Idaho; Vir Stil faucet by Laura Kirar, Kallista; gray cabinetry in the color Vintage Dover Cliffs, Wood-Mode Inc. in Kreamer, Pennsylvania; Danby marble countertop (on gray cabinetry) and sugar marble countertop (on walnut buffet), Stone Surfaces Inc. in East Rutherford; cabinet

The doorway to the dining room remained in place, but Giuliani found space next to it for a refrigerator flanked by pullout pantries. Artisan George Nakashima signed the handmade dining chair.

hardware (nickel on walnut buffet, leather and nickel on gray cabinets, and dark bronze and walnut on refrigerator), Katonah Architectural Hardware in New York City; crystal cabinet pulls, Emtek Products Inc.; refrigerator, Sub-Zero; backsplash and floor tiles and tiles on wall behind the stainless steel cabinet, Stratta, the Tile Boutique in Wyckoff; Alison Berger Lens Sconce (in the corner near the mirror), through Holly Hunt New York; chandelier, Sky Garden by Marcel Wanders in Amsterdam, Netherlands; handmade chairs, George Nakashima Woodworker in New Hope, Pennsylvania.

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