

Portrait photography by Nick Wong / Floodplan illustration by Larissa Reffle / Styling by Me & Mo Creative, Meg Crossley and Morgan Michener



A textural, full-height backsplash of ceramic tile and tonal uppers make the walnut lowers stand out. **Wall tile**, Ciot; **pendants**, Rejuvenation; **wall oven**, Thermador; **island counter**, Cava Surfaces.

Design
DART STUDIO
Photography
NIAMH BARRY
Text
WENDY JACOB

The Modernist Kitchen

BELOW: Designers Mariane Kawamura (left) and Olivia Botrie.



EVEN THOUGH THE KITCHEN in this 1930s-era home in Toronto's Danforth area had relatively new finishes, it also had one major flaw. "There was only one drawer!" says principal designer Olivia Botrie with a laugh. Olivia and senior designer Mariane Kawamura, both of Dart Studio, were hired to bring much-needed function and modern finishes to the space.

"The owners like things that are livable and low-key, but still feel special," says Olivia of the design brief.

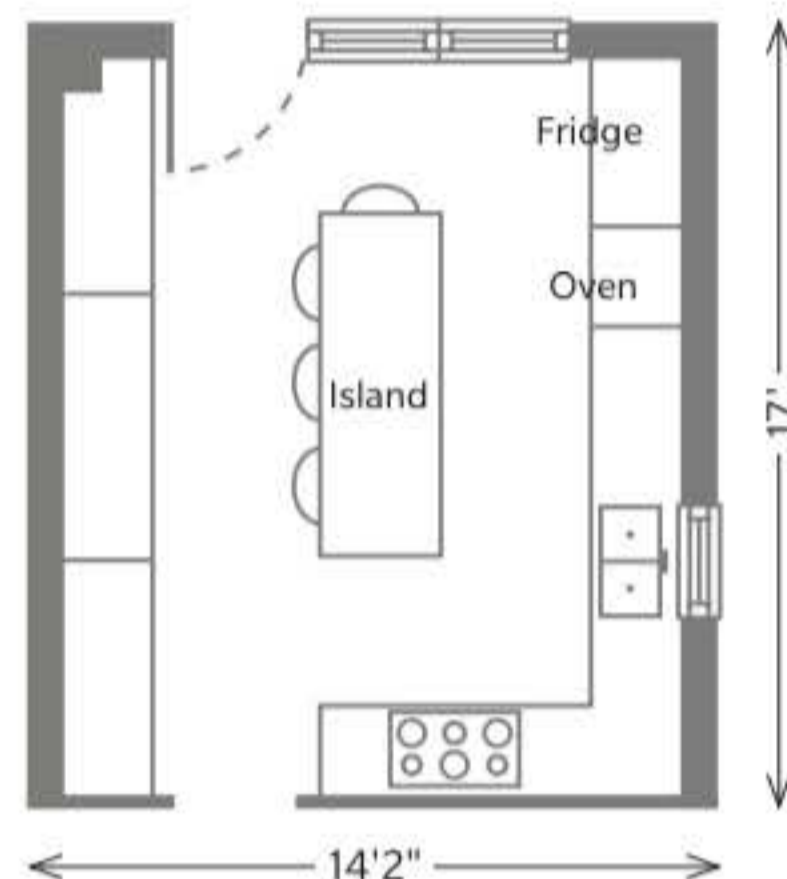
The original kitchen was shoehorned into a corner of a great room that included an unused family room. Not only that, two swing doors to the backyard gobbled up space. The first thing the designers did was expand the kitchen into the family room, remove the swing doors and create a 15-foot run of cabinets along one wall. This allowed them to double the size of the island, swapping in an eight-foot-long walnut version.



“THE OWNERS LIKE THINGS THAT ARE LIVABLE AND LOW-KEY, BUT STILL FEEL SPECIAL”

— Olivia Botrie

Floor Plan



KEY ELEMENTS

- Fluted vent hood
- Walnut lowers
- Slim, Shaker-style painted uppers
- Banded diamond porcelain floor tile
- Everest quartzite island counter and niche

TOP LEFT: The niche breaks up the run of cabinets and serves as a bar and display area. To the right is a generous pantry and broom closet concealed behind floor-to-ceiling cabinet doors.

BOTTOM RIGHT: The fluted vent hood nods to the slim, Shaker-style profile of the cabinet doors. **Vent hood**, KBZ Construction; **cooktop**, Thermador; **counters**, Cava Surfaces; **hardware**, Emtek.



The warm, fiery grain of the new walnut lower cabinets is an effective contrast to the cool, banded diamond floor tile. Natural materials and textural elements including the fluted vent hood and offset stacked tile backsplash add visual interest. “Arranging the tiles vertically felt more contemporary than a traditional subway tile pattern,” says Olivia. “The overall vibe in the kitchen is more transitional, not vintage-y.”

One of the kitchen’s standout moments is the arched niche, an impromptu bar area with an undercounter beverage fridge. “We had an opportunity for a big shelf moment,” says Mariane. “With all the new storage, we opted to forgo uppers and showcase the Everest quartzite on the backsplash, also seen on the island counter. Then, we accentuated it with a walnut-framed arch.” Post-reno, the owners love their refreshed space, packed with rich woods, interesting textures and warm, modern touches.

TOP LEFT: Cool grey and cream is a serene scheme; the views to the leafy backyard bring the outdoors in. **Patio doors,** Ridley Windows & Doors; **tile,** Deco-Tile.

GET THE LOOK

The Modernist Kitchen



1. 11" Dekum **pendant** with Matte Moss Metal Shade and Aged Brass Finish. \$869. Rejuvenation.
2. 2"x 6" **tile** in Rice Natural Lux. \$13.45/sq.ft. Ciot.
3. 36" Heritage Induction **cooktop** by Thermador. \$6,109. Tasco Appliances.
4. 6" CC Habitat **cabinet pull** in Satin Brass by Emtek. \$29. Ginger's.
5. 33" Precis Silgranit Double Bowl Undermount **sink** in White by Blanco. \$992. The Home Depot Canada.
6. 30" Professional Steam Convection **oven** in Stainless Steel by Thermador. \$10,539. Tasco Appliances.
7. Polly Velvet **counter stool** in Light Grey. \$129. Structube.
8. Custom walnut **drawer front**. Pricing upon request. KBZ Construction.