

# Making the Most OF MIDCENTURY MODERN

**Glamorous Marble, Gray Rift-cut Oak Cabinets and Unique Tiles  
Within an Open Floor Plan Create an Award-winning Kitchen Design**

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[wentworthstudio.com](http://wentworthstudio.com)

Photos by Geoffrey Hodgdon

A brick rowhouse in Southwest, Washington, D.C., that was part of a 1960's urban revitalization, was in need of updates, beginning with the galley kitchen hidden behind walls. When Wentworth, Inc. was hired to renovate the spaces, the team worked closely with the owner to step outside the box when designing the small space by carefully selecting materials and finishes. This project, with its innovative layout and eye-catching details, recently won a NARI CotY Award.

The goal was to open the kitchen to the living and dining rooms while adding modern amenities for a total transformation of the main floor. Starting at the entryway, a new coat closet forms a block-like shape wrapped on two sides by base cabinets for storage and open shelving above for ease of access. For the cabinets, the team chose custom white oak and rift-cut oak veneer by Black Creek Workshop featuring a gray stain that shows the beauty of the wood's grain.

The entry closet adjoins the kitchen where a new 78" x 41" island showcases

three sides of white stain-resistant Danby Montclair marble that forms a visual anchor in the space. A gas Summit cooktop in the center, built-in Thermador oven placed discretely in the island below, and a stainless steel Zypher Europa Moderna range hood that echoes the proportions of the open shelving create a top-of-the-line cooking station.

A tall cabinet along the opposite wall houses a built-in Viking microwave and deep storage as well as a stainless steel, counter-depth Liebherr refrigerator to maintain a streamlined look. The sink and stone countertop complete the 18' long run of cabinetry with the final 12" deep base cabinets extending into the dining room for practical storage with this working area utilizing a dark, handmade Silestone Cemento counter.

In mid-century modern fashion, the open plan is defined by floor materials and ceiling height changes with a dropped drywall ceiling curving to mirror the floor tile as well as to accommodate ductwork for heating and cooling,

the new range hood and recessed lighting. At the south facing kitchen window, the ceiling design pops up to accentuate the natural light.

Handmade Exquisite Surfaces Sitio backsplash tile, limited to the sink area, is a luxury item custom made for the homeowner. A bit of rust color adds spice to the neutral color palette, while the incised tile pattern has orthogonal, diagonal, and radius geometric designs that show off the rectilinear quality of the kitchen cabinetry.

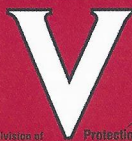
A large format 12" x 24" Natural Sand Field porcelain floor tile by Mosaic Tile defines the kitchen space and cleanly blends with the home's existing oak floor. The tiles' staggered joint pattern accentuates the linearity of the space while providing a neutral palette to complement the owner's Turkish rug collection. The existing dining room table was retained, but turned in the opposite direction of the island, with a new modern Flos Skygarden S by Marcel Wanders light fixture overhead.





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