



Color co-ordinated

Designed to be a fun environment, the colors and textures of this kitchen reflect the owners' personalities

One of the most fascinating aspects of design is variety. Often this is most brilliantly expressed when personalities are incorporated and reflected in a design concept.

In this case, the owners approached Doug Durbin, from nuHaus Kitchen & Bath Design, because they wanted a completely different style of kitchen – a vibrant space that

was representative of who they are, says Durbin.

"These clients were really interested in having fun with the design. They are fans of Porsche and Audi cars, and chose the vivid blue and yellow colors to match their favorite models. One client, a collector of art works that represent marine life, also wanted to express that particular hobby in some of the detailing used."

Left: This kitchen was designed to reflect aspects of the owners' interests. The blue and yellow high-gloss cabinets match the colors of two favorite cars. The stainless steel panels on the back of the island were fabricated to portray fish scales – representing an interest in artworks that depict marine life.

Above: A stainless steel-framed display cabinet was installed alongside a new doorway to show a collection of serving pieces.



Above: The backsplash behind the cooktop was custom made at the nuHaus millwork and cabinet workshop. It consists of a mirror-layer fused to two layers of tempered glass. The middle layer of glass is shattered, which creates the distinctive patterning. The honey-colored wood flooring is the existing wood floor – stripped back and lightened.

Working with the clients, Durbin explored ways to have fun with the colors and detailing. The extensive cabinets lining the kitchen, manufactured at the nuHaus custom millwork and cabinet shop and Downsview Custom Kitchen, were finished in a high-gloss polyester paint that perfectly matches the car colors.

One challenge faced was creating a defined space for the

kitchen, say Durbin.

"This involved building a new doorway to create a sense of where the kitchen begins. Next to this doorway, a display cabinet for artwork was installed. The clients collect matte porcelain and sterling silver serving pieces. We built a display cabinet with a stainless steel frame and inset half inch glass, similar to a shower door, to house these pieces."

Entering the kitchen, the L-shaped island counter gives the room subtle symmetry, says the designer, by mirroring the shape of the fabricated stainless steel ceiling light fitting.

"The L-shape on the ceiling fitting exactly mirrors the backsplash below," says Durbin. "Other subtle details include the Absolute Black granite bartop, which cascades in a continuous form down



over the polished Blue Pearl granite backsplash to meet the bar sink."

Adding to the kitchen's bright atmosphere is the reflective quality of the shattered glass backsplash. Installed behind both the stove and sink the glass has a blue tint to blend in with the cabinetry.

Stainless steel brings another element into the design. The large rangehood,



Above: The bright colors and reflective surfaces are accentuated by several stainless steel fittings, including the sculptural shape of a 116in long rangehood.

Left: The yellow color of the beverage centre matches the color of one of the owner's favorite cars. The open display cabinet adjacent features stainless steel strips laid into the face of the shelves.



Kitchen designer: Doug Durbin,
nuHaus Kitchen & Bath Design
(Highland Park, IL)

Kitchen manufacturer: NuHaus
custom cabinetry; Downsview Custom
Kitchen

Cabinets: High gloss polyester,

rift-cut white oak veneer and stainless steel

Countertops: Blue Pearl polished

granite and Absolute Black polished

granite from Tithof Tile

Flooring: Existing hardwood

Backsplash: Shattered glass with blue tint from Rareform; Blue Pearl granite

backsplash from Tithof Tile
Faucets: Dornbracht
Oven: Wolf

Cooktop: Wolf

Ventilation: Cheng Flux Hood

Microwave: Panasonic

Refrigerator: Sub-Zero; Marvel
undercounter

Dishwasher: Miele

Photography by John Umberger

Left: The shape of the island is reflected in the fabricated steel light fitting above. The colored glass pendants above the island add another dash of color to the room. The ceiling fitting prevents the ceiling from becoming an open expanse only filled by recessed can lighting, says the designer.

Above: The multicolored light fixture above the dining table is an original piece from the original kitchen.