

SAN DIEGO HOME/GARDEN

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22nd Annual Kitchens of the Year
Two Inspired Beach Homes

MID-CENTURY MODERN IN MIND

KITCHEN AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANITA LEWIS

TIME SPENT IN PALM SPRINGS, was time well spent for Kathy and Ken London. They love Mid-Century Modern design, and there they found a plethora of ideas to use in their newly built home above the bluffs of Carmel Valley.

One of those ideas was incorporating cinder block into the stucco exterior. The concrete block carries through to a kitchen wall, where the combination of cool textures balanced by warm woods and colors was part of the reason designer Anita Lewis was a Kitchens of the Year winner.

“The homeowners wanted a clean, sleek look — modern, yet with inviting, warm tones,” Anita says. “My philosophy comes from the European school of modern kitchens. Everything must look furniture-like but function as a kitchen, so I am adamant about which materials are used. I create a living atmosphere, integrating the kitchen with the living area.”

Kitchen cabinets are a mix of high-gloss white, also used in the dining space, and a rich-toned

walnut, installed in the living area as well. Kathy liked the two-tone aspect of white and walnut, but she wanted a warmer feel to some of the hard surfaces.

“The walnut cabinets have a nice gold undertone to them,” she says. “The backsplash tile has gold in it too, as well as pewter and clear glass, which pulled warm and hard surfaces together without being too kitschy. I chose Calacatta marble versus Carrara for the countertops, because the Calacatta has more of a gold flake in it. And the concrete floor has a bronze undertone to it. I am a hairstylist, so I have a good eye for color. The end result with the staining is a concrete floor that looks like bronze leather.”

Besides the sleek, modern materials, it is the kitchen’s straightforward, simple and classic design that gives this space its Mid-Century Modern air.

“There are not a lot of frills, but this is a very functional kitchen with everything a family needs,” Anita says.



“Elegant and simple finishes are well placed, creating an interesting and harmonious space that is a delight.”

— R. LYLE BOATMAN

