

# ART IN THE HEART

A clearly modern home's kitchen gains new views and an artistic aesthetic.

WRITTEN BY JEANETTE HURT  
PHOTOGRAPHER SUSAN GILMORE  
FIELD EDITOR ALECIA STEVENS

Parker Newcomb and Jaime Roman's kitchen suits the style of their Minneapolis home. The globe light fixture, sculptural bowl, and Bertolli chairs reflect the couple's modern tastes.





collection of modern art, some of which can be enjoyed from the **kitchen**.

Gray cabinets gave way to custom bamboo, and appliances were upgraded to stainless-steel models. Though Parker found the bamboo, it was Gustafson who suggested turning the grain sideways on the cabinets. "With the vaulted ceiling and the windows, the horizontal lines expand the visual space," Gustafson says.

Classic granite countertops and the **kitchen's** original oak flooring balance the more contemporary look of the cabinetry and appliances, but Bertola wire chairs with orange seat cushions confirm that Parker and Jaime are fans of modern art and design. Bands of stainless steel around the island add another layer of sleek style.

It was important that the new **kitchen** fit the home's contemporary lines, but

the space had to be practical for a couple with young children, too. "We wanted a beautiful, modern **kitchen** that functioned for our family," Parker says. "We have three children, and two of them are quite small and can't even reach things yet."

To accommodate the kids, refrigerator drawers and pullouts for snacks are set low into the cabinetry. "That way, they can access the things they need, but stay out of the work triangle," Parker says.

The **kitchen** is just what the couple—and the home—need. "It's beautiful and functional, and because you can see every part of the house from every other part, the **kitchen** is visible when you walk in the door," Jaime says. "The look was very important, and we wanted the **kitchen** to have an almost-sculptural quality." **www**

PHOTOGRAPH BY PAUL LEE

OPPOSITE TOP: The grain of the bamboo cabinetry runs horizontally, establishing a pattern followed by the lines of the hardware, window blinds, and refrigerator grille.

OPPOSITE BOTTOM: Granite counters show how a classic surface choice can work in a contemporary setting, while the striking faucet and sprayer turn practical plumbing into art.

BELOW: Before the **kitchen** was remodeled, the home's central feature, its garden atrium, wasn't visible from the room. Now the cook enjoys a great view from the island.

## THE LIGHT AND VIEWS FROM A GARDEN ATRIUM



spread to every part of Parker Newcomb and Jaime Roman's modern Minneapolis dwelling—except the **kitchen**, which was cut off from the rest of the home. "The **kitchen** was contemporary, but it was very dark and drab," says Connie Gustafson, a certified **kitchen** designer (CKD) and member of the National **Kitchen & Bath** Association (NKBA).

Besides being walled off from other rooms, the **kitchen** had isolation zones of its own, thanks to an 8x10-foot exhaust hood over the island. "If you were cooking, it just obstructed your view everywhere," Parker says. "And it was even really hard to talk to anyone else in the **kitchen** because you simply couldn't see them," Jaime says.

Knocking down walls opened the **kitchen** to the elegant living and dining rooms, a step that went a long way toward unifying the home. Then the massive hood was removed—traded out for a sleek, cylindrical, stainless-steel version. The new hood has a sculptural quality that complements the couple's extensive





The kitchen embraces the idea that functional objects can look like pieces of art, a principle of modern design.



**WRAPAROUND VIEWS**

A U-shaped perimeter brackets the island in a plan that turns the corner to allow views of a central atrium.

*above:* A half-wall separates the eating area from the adjacent living and dining rooms, allowing intimacy for diners while allowing glimpses of artwork beyond.  
*left:* Symmetry creates design rhythm, as seen in the parallel shapes of the appliance garage, ovens, and cabinets.



**Take-Home Tip**  
 Even one exterior window or glass door gives your kitchen that all-important outdoor connection.

*THIS PHOTO:* Like the bamboo used for the island and cabinetry, oak flooring makes a natural counterpart to the trees and stones out in the garden atrium.