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DESIGN BY THE JONATHANS
MICHELLE MORAN



Michelle Moran is one of the newest talents to join the acclaimed team at Design by the Jonathans, and she's already created some spectacular, magazine-worthy spaces for the firm's clients. Michelle brings more than 20 years of artistic and technical experience working in architecture and client-centered interior design. She learned to appreciate quality design from a young age, as her parents were well-known antique dealers who brought her to countless antique shows, shops and auctions while she was growing up. Michelle received her bachelor's degree in interior design from Boston Architectural College, and has broad experience working for architectural and interior design firms on both commercial and residential projects.

Design by the Jonathans is indeed lucky to welcome Michelle on board, as she brings an aesthetic understanding that is recognized and respected by the firm's luxury clients. Michelle acknowledges that changing the design of one's home is intensely

personal, and she honors that privilege by exceeding her client's expectations while keeping their budget in mind.

We asked Michelle her thoughts on designing kitchens, a central part of every home. "Kitchens truly are the heart of the home," she says. "Even if clients don't spend a lot of time cooking, people still gravitate towards the kitchen. It has become an extended living space—not just a place for cooking and chores."

Michelle shares with us a vintage-inspired kitchen that she created for a Connecticut family who enjoy cooking and gathering with family and friends. This stunning space manages to feel spacious yet cozy at the same time. With thoughtful design details, such as the custom window treatments and coordinating area rug, this kitchen was truly created with the client in mind. Designed for both entertaining and function, the kitchen features strategic hideaways, such as a coffee bar complete with a quartz countertop and retractable doors that easily hide it away



when not in use. And with its natural white oak cabinetry and lightly veined quartz countertops, this kitchen invites guests to pull out a stool from the island and enjoy the company.

This kitchen draws us in with its warmth and charm. Key to making this kitchen design come to life was using a combination of mixed materials and a melding of old and new styles. Some of the personalized features include the vintage-inspired appliances and the custom range hood done in a natural white oak to match the cabinetry. The range is a true showpiece, and is further accented by the brass hardware and fixtures and mixed metal accent lights. Unique subway tile in a herringbone pattern is a deviation from the expected, and adds some shine and interest to the space. Another standout feature is the large custom island, which is not only functional but also adds a touch of whimsy, with its pop of color and its fun but sophisticated marble tile on one side. The mix of old and new styles ties the space together beautifully.

What's Michelle's secret to creating a space that is truly tailored to her client? "Custom cabinets can make all the difference in comparison to semi-custom cabinets and non-custom cabinets," she says. "Plus, the cost difference is not as drastic as one might think." In this kitchen, the natural wood custom cabinets complement the finished white oak floors, with the white oak carry-

ing throughout the rest of the first floor of the home.

Designers have been known to take risks to create personalized kitchens for their clients and "break the rules" in terms of traditional design. Michelle believes some formulas are time-tested for a good reason. "Sometimes the rules are there because they work well and have for many years," she says. "It would be like trying to reinvent the wheel." She takes pride in always placing her client's needs and aesthetic choices first. "I work very hard to take my clients' tastes into account while still guiding them in a good direction," she says. "I'm not designing for me; I'm designing for them. In the end, what I'm trying to achieve is an amazing space that truly speaks to the individual client. People's homes are personal, and I try to design with that in mind."

Resource:

*Design by the Jonathans, LLC
Michelle Moran, Kitchen and Bath Designer
85 Willow Street
New Haven, CT 06511
203.349.2549
thejonathans.com*