



light, fun & functional

NUMEROUS CURVES OFFER A GREAT SENSE OF MOVEMENT

WISH LIST

- Unusual, amusing kitchen design
- Lots of light in an originally dark Victorian design
- Very functional layout

When an actor living in an 1880 Victorian home in Chicago hired designer Leslie Markman-Stern to redo his dark, gloomy kitchen, he asked for a room that would be light, fun and functional. The designer immediately picked up on his humorous personality and went hunting for design ingredients that were quirky enough to make everyone chuckle, yet would also function superbly.

To accomplish her role, Markman-Stern went as far as she could from the more standard straight-laced, serious design. This kitchen's second act was to be pure comedy, not drama. The new

kitchen, which the owner shares with a grown nephew and two dogs, plays its role perfectly. It has curves at every glance, color from head to toe and a freshness that's zippy and amusing.

Yet, the new space remains as highly functional as any other kitchen Markman-Stern has designed—and there have been many. She selected quality appliances with stainless steel fronts for some bright zippiness. Originally, she hoped to deliver lots of punch and wow in the room with glass walls, but the cost proved to be too great. Choice two was to bring in numerous curves that would also offer a great sense of movement in the relatively small 13' by 13' space.

Markman-Stern achieved that goal when she found unadorned, curved cherry cabinets trimmed in metal at the top and base from an Italian line distributed in the U.S. that was also affordable. The cabinets offered an additional perk: no sharp corner edges in the small space. Markman-Stern placed the majority of cabinets beneath the countertops to keep the space above light and airy.

To add a greater sense of roominess to the space, vent cooking odors well since both men like to cook, and have room for an eating counter that could double as an extra work surface, she placed the four-burner cooktop and big hood in a corner. The countertop in that area boldly juts out to form the circular eating surface, which also provides the extra work surface. Fabricated from CaesarStone—as are all countertops in the room—the counters are almost indestructible.

Markman-Stern had the walls painted a rich, sensuous blue, paved the floor in porcelain tiles and painted the ceiling off-white for a bit of calm. —*Barbara Ballinger*

DESIGNER:

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LOCATION: Chicago, IL

DIMENSIONS: 13' by 13'

>>> SPECIAL FEATURES:

European-style; Curved cabinets and countertops; Funky and fun design; Glass and metal accents

PRODUCTS USED:

- Cabinets: PediniUSA, Artika line
- Refrigerator, ovens: KitchenAid
- Hood: Euro
- Dishwasher: Bosch
- Sink: Franke
- Countertop: CaesarStone
- Floor: Antiqued limestone

ABOVE LEFT: By placing a cooktop in the corner, the designer could accommodate an oversized curving peninsula counter.

ABOVE RIGHT: The curved end of a secondary counter conserves space and echoes the main counter's shape.

OPPOSITE: Incorporating "fun" in this design meant a curved counter/eating spot, funky stools and rich blue-painted walls.





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