

A GREAT ROOM IS MADE GREATER

The kitchen space in a Burnaby great room is enlarged with the elimination of a dining room

PHOTOGRAPHY: PAUL GRDINA / STYLING: SARAH GALLOP






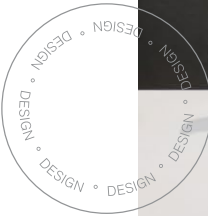
The backsplash looks like marble but is porcelain. The designer used it to clad the range hood. Induction cooktop: Miele; cabinetry hardware: Emtex.

IT HAPPENS A LOT THESE DAYS. Homeowners who renovate their kitchens decide that there's something they can live happily without: their formal dining rooms.

When a couple in North Burnaby turned to interior designer Sarah Gallop to redesign their kitchen, their first order of business was to demolish the adjacent dining room and integrate the space into the kitchen. "We didn't use our dining room," says homeowner Cindy Oliver. "We decided to get rid of it and open up the kitchen."

The result is a large, seamless space in which family and friends gather around the island and dine in a casual dining nook.

Gallop, co-owner of the eponymously named Sarah Gallop Design Inc., was hired to redesign and renovate the main floor of the house, of which the kitchen is now the focus. 



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even on gloomy days.”



The great room offers great repose to the family. Cindy says this is the area in which the family gathers after a meal in the adjacent dining nook. Furnishings: Once a Tree Furniture.

The house was built in 1990, and the kitchen was part of the original “great room,” which encompassed a family room. But the dining room had been built as a separate, enclosed space. Eliminating it required the demolition of two walls and the installation of structural beams to take the load.

“Removing the dining room gave us space to create a prep kitchen with a walk-in butler’s pantry, says Gallop. “We also were able to extend the size of the kitchen.”

The house’s contemporary architecture called for sleek interior design.



Bojan High End Kitchens created the millwork, including an expanse of pale-grey lacquered cabinetry, punctuated by a bank of upper cupboards with a deep-charcoal-stained walnut veneer. A backsplash of porcelain tile that mimics marble is in keeping with the grey-and-white colour scheme. For the countertops, Gallop chose quartz – Caesarstone’s Vivid White.

At a length of almost 12 feet, the island is a dramatic central feature in the space. While one end boasts a quartz waterfall edge, the designer prevented the white expanse from becoming monotonous by adding a dramatic long slab of live-edge walnut along much of its length. Stained the same charcoal shade as the upper cabinets, it’s the surface upon which visitors lean when the homeowners entertain. “We wanted something that would show,” says Gallop.

Removing the enclosed formal dining room allowed interior designer Sarah Gallop to enlarge the kitchen, creating a separate prep area, seen here beyond the panelled refrigerator and ovens. Dated oak flooring was replaced with etched engineered maple planks that unite all the surrounding spaces.



The pendant lights above the island, made of walnut and frosted glass, are a whimsical touch. “They’re like cubes on a diagonal with the bottoms cut off,” says designer Sarah Gallop.

Aging, yellowing oak floors were replaced with engineered maple planks that the designer took through the contiguous spaces. “The planks are etched, which makes them very forgiving,” says the homeowner.

Cindy says she and her husband love to entertain. “Getting rid of the dining room allowed us to have a really long island,” she says, adding that the kitchen has become “the room we use most. The light streams in, even on gloomy days.”

She credits Gallop and her contractor, PSL Construction, for bringing the project to fruition “on time and on budget to the penny.”

“I couldn’t be happier with the results,” she adds. “We’ve done renos before, but I would never do another project without Sarah and PSL.”

The module that now contains a panelled refrigerator and ovens stands where a wall once separated the kitchen from the dining room. Behind it, a prep kitchen gives the homeowners extra workspace. Fridge: Sub-Zero.

