

Lofty Desires

Two design experts pool their talents and expertise to turn a basic loft kitchen into one that any chef would envy.

BY KAREN KIRK | DESIGNED BY JEFFREY FISHER AND FRANK TURCO

PHOTOGRAPHY BY PAUL CHMIELOWIEC

Levolor blinds soften the look and provide sun and draft protection for the large loft windows.

The cabinetry defines the style of any kitchen. Contemporary European-style cabinets pack a dramatic punch and give the kitchen prominence in the large open space. Martha Stewart Living's Weston upper cabinets, in Persian Gray with horizontal faux wood-grain, look amazing with dark Thomasville Nouveau Cavette base cabinets, in Torte with vertical wood-grain.

The Cavavin Urbania wine storage unit was a splurge for Jeffrey, who loves to entertain regularly.

Jeffrey hung an original landscape painting by Mark Grantham over the kitchen sink to simulate a window with a view.

Minimizing the impact of wear and tear on joints and muscles, as well as reducing the risk of a slip, the beautiful, eco-friendly Wicanders cork tile floor in Slate Algae provides warmth and comfort underfoot. Its sound-insulating properties make it a perfect choice for condos and houses alike.



Loft living has become a popular lifestyle for city dwellers across Canada, but designing and decorating these wide-open spaces can pose some challenges. "Defining the living spaces in a tall, empty box calls for clever planning to make the space livable and functional," says Jeffrey Fisher, a designer based in Toronto.

As the owner of a live/work loft, Jeffrey has first-hand experience working with the unique architecture of industrial-style lofts to create comfortable living and working environments. In his loft, a 12-foot-high floating wall of storage cupboards separates the office and living room area from the bedroom and bathroom. A 14-foot-high structural wall supports the kitchen cupboards and defines the kitchen and dining area. A simple decor approach, including a cohesive colour scheme, was key in creating a seamless flow through this open-concept space. Jeffrey found that the plain white Ikea kitchen cabinets that came with the loft faded into the vast white walls and decided they needed to be changed. With no budget for an expensive custom kitchen and wanting to maintain the simplicity and footprint of the original kitchen, Jeffrey took advantage of the free »

Energy-efficient undercabinet LED lighting illuminates the beautiful Silestone countertops. A circular chandelier is suspended over the island. It's controlled by a dimmer switch to help create ambience.



A full suite of Samsung appliances includes a sleek new four-door Energy Star-rated refrigerator, a quiet dishwasher, an over-the-range microwave, and a large-capacity, free-standing induction range with warming drawer, which offers the latest in induction-cooking technology to help save on energy. (See page 131 for more on induction ranges.)

The kitchen island is wrapped in Silestone quartz to match the countertops and backsplash, providing a stark contrast to the rich, dark base cabinets and cork floors. The island contains recycling bins and pot drawers on one side and inset seating on the other.



design services at Home Depot and teamed up with Frank Turco, trends and style senior manager for Home Depot and head designer on Citytv's "Breakfast Television 48-Hour Makeover," to create a kitchen that would rival any high-cost custom design. Combining their design talents and Frank's extensive product knowledge, the duo designed a sleek, modern, energy-efficient kitchen that offers Jeffrey the perfect space for cooking, dining and entertaining. ■

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Before you begin your next renovation project, contact Habitat for Humanity's ReStores for an appraisal of the value of the items you're considering for donations. The ReStore accepts new and gently used renovation materials, such as doors, windows, kitchen cabinets, bathroom fixtures and lighting. They'll even schedule a team to help you tear down, rip out or load up your donation. To find out more, visit habitat.ca/restore.

STYLE AND PROTECT

Add a colourful area rug in front of the kitchen sink to provide a safe nonslip surface underfoot and protect your hardwood and cork floors from spills and everyday wear. Choose a rug you can throw in the washer and dryer, and use a nonslip pad underneath.

For shopping information, see page 210.

As durable as it is elegant, a Silestone quartz countertop and backsplash in Bianco River (fresh white with grey veining) offer a clean, seamless look and provide a food-safe and scratch-resistant work surface.



A large, deep, undermounted stainless-steel Precision U Maxi Blanco sink easily accommodates large pots and pans for easy cleanup. The stainless-steel high-arc Blanco Sweet Harmony pull-down faucet is handy for filling tall pots and vases.



DETAILS

A. Full-extension drawers are fitted with convenient shelving units for mugs and tall glasses.



B. The unique horizontal faux wood-grain Weston upper cabinets with Bedford nickel hardware are both by Martha Stewart Living.