

# New England HOME

Celebrating Fine Design, Architecture, and Building

BEYOND  
WHITE  
Kitchens  
We Love

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The 2021  
5 Under 40  
Awards



*C'est bon!*

Old World intrigue made new

# Material World

Bye-bye white. The freshest  
kitchens feature materials, textures,  
and palettes rich in personality.

TEXT BY MEAGHAN O'NEILL



The homeowners chose to restore the egg-and-dart crown molding, using a skilled local plasterer. Because the ceilings are so high, designer Nancy Serafini placed cabinets low enough to give the room a more human scale.

Serafini chose Urban Electric Co. pendants that she had custom painted in Benjamin Moore Hale Navy, the same color we see on the cabinetry. The shades' brassy undersides coordinate with the Waterworks fittings and hardware.

## BLUE STREAK

**When it comes to the built environment,** things that appear elegant in their simplicity rarely start out that way. Such was the case in a Boston brownstone apartment, which had steps up and down

throughout the first floor when the homeowners—two busy professionals with grown children—purchased it. Leveling it out required rearranging HVAC ductwork, a tricky operation that “took a



**ARCHITECTURE:**  
Sam Kachmar, Sam  
Kachmar Architects

**INTERIOR DESIGN:**  
Nancy Serafini,  
Nancy Serafini Interior Design

**CABINETRY:**  
Paula Accioly,  
Jewett Farms + Co.

**BUILDER:**  
FBN  
Construction

**PHOTOGRAPHY:**  
Michael J. Lee

Judicious use of glass doors prevents the cabinetry from feeling too heavy. Wooden shelving inside ties together various elements of the kitchen.



**WHAT YOU  
DON'T SEE**

The kitchen previously sat three steps higher than the rest of the apartment. Architect Sam Kachmar leveled out the entire first floor and matched the kitchen's cased opening to the living room's, an invisible but critical—and elegant—intervention that corrected previously awkward transitions between rooms. "If we can act like a ghost and a space feels good, then I feel like we've done our job," says Kachmar.

"It's so beautifully organized now."

—INTERIOR DESIGNER NANCY SERAFINI



lot of mechanical gymnastics," says architect Sam Kachmar. Next, he aligned a hallway connecting the living room and kitchen, creating a much smoother transition between spaces. The move allowed interior designer Nancy Serafini to smartly divide the kitchen into its functional parts. Along one wall that abuts the circulation route, she installed tall storage cabinets. Across from those is the work space, with island, sink, range, and primary oven. "It's so beautifully organized now," says Serafini, who specified a navy blue for storage, lower cupboards, and the island but left upper cupboards white. "It's just so pretty in its simplicity."

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** For details, see Resources.