

SLEEK





# Delectable Details

By **CAROLINE EBERLY**  
 PHOTOGRAPHY BY **EMILY MINTON REDFIELD**

**DESIGN GOAL:** It's a tall order for the kitchen when husband and wife have large families who live in town, enjoy cooking and entertaining, *and* work in the home design industry. But this remarkable kitchen shows that all things are possible. Sara Cooper and her husband Jason, principal of Iris Building Group, worked with designer Mikal Otten of Exquisite Kitchen Design to dream up this space in their new Denver home.

"They wanted the kitchen space to not only work great for entertaining," Otten says, "but it was to be edgy, sexy and sophisticated." On top of that, adds Sara Cooper, the space needed to be "a real cook's kitchen," and an anchor in a home built around family.

The result is a professional-style setup with Wolf and Sub-Zero appliances, plenty of space to maneuver, enough cool to be interesting and enough warmth to want to linger. "It's almost like a large loft space on the main floor of my house so everyone can be together," Sara Cooper says, "and in addition to being sexy and cool and sleek, it's also rich and warm and inviting."

**DEFINING DETAIL:** The piano-shaped island, with its luscious contours, takes center stage. "Throughout this home, we have a lot of soffits and curved staircases—there's lots of visual movement. It pretty quickly became clear that the shape of a Steinway would fit really nicely in that space," Otten

says. The shapely island mirrors organic curves found in the ceiling, an artistic feature designed by the homeowners themselves.

**WHY IT WORKS:** In this space, beauty finds its equal in function. Two different work areas ensure that cooking and cleanup are separate from each other—and can happen at the same time. A custom-designed garbage receptacle keeps trash out of sight. Counter space stretches on and on to accommodate buffets at family gatherings, and ample storage space allows the homeowners to keep an extra set of kosher dishes for Passover.

On top of a genius layout, the details are impeccable. From the counter-top finish (an antique granite that feels like leather), to the warm palette of woods (wenge for the cabinets, zebrawood for the island), to the bold sculptural range hood—all of the details come together for the Coopers to create a greater whole. "The most incredibly rewarding aspect of building your own home is creating a sense of warmth and family and continuity," Sara Cooper says. "And the kitchen is always the heart of that."

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Design Details: Mikal Otten, Exquisite Kitchen Design, (303) 282-0382, [myekdesign.com](http://myekdesign.com); Jason Cooper, Iris Building Group, (303) 344-4747, [theirisgroup.com](http://theirisgroup.com).