

A wide-angle photograph of a bright, modern kitchen. The kitchen features white upper and lower cabinets with silver handles. A large island with a white marble countertop and a dark blue base is the central focus. Two large, white, dome-shaped pendant lights hang over the island. A woman with blonde hair and glasses, wearing a patterned shirt, is standing behind the island, preparing food. On the island, there is a bowl of green apples, a sink with a faucet, and some fruit. In the background, there is a blue mosaic backsplash and a window with a view of the ocean. To the right, there is a dining area with two wooden chairs and a table with a vase of yellow tulips. The floor is made of light-colored wood-look planks.

JACKIE ARMOUR
JMA INTERIOR DESIGN
“SUBTLE COASTAL-CLEVER STORAGE”

Jackie Armour of JMA Interior Design has a design philosophy built on trust and communication. She has spent the past 20 years building successful relationships with clients, contractors, architects and tradespeople, so now all her business is by referral only. Such was the case when architect Mitch O’Neil of Jupiter, FL, with whom Jackie had worked many times before, referred her to his clients, who were remodeling their vacation home in Jupiter Island. The family has multiple homes, with a primary residence in Texas. They use the Florida condo in the summer for a couple weeks and as a winter escape for their extended family.

Jackie first met the clients on-site with Mitch to see the space and discuss changes. Since the common areas of the condo were divided into several rooms, the design team couldn’t take advantage of the wall of floor-to-ceiling windows that runs through the space. Moreover, the existing floor plan of the condo’s public spaces (kitchen, living room, dining room) didn’t allow for free-flowing movement between the kitchen and living area. The two rooms were separated by a wall of cabinetry sandwiched between two large support pillars, which also blocked the kitchen’s view of the ocean.

The condo’s decor was heavy and outdated, with a real lack of design intention. There was dark, built-in cabinetry and a sea of beige carpet and soft furnishings. The homeowners wanted more light in the overall space to make it fresh and airy. To accomplish this, the design team planned to get rid of all non-load-



bearing walls in the public spaces. This would open up the condo to the spectacular view of the Atlantic Ocean, which would become the focal point of the design. The homeowners wanted to take advantage of the view and let the light bathe the kitchen, dining and living spaces. Jackie was tasked with overhauling the space to give it a subtle coastal design.

Though the condo was relatively small for the homeowners, they wanted to keep the same lifestyle they maintain in Texas, which includes hosting large family dinners and entertaining friends. They needed plenty of storage for all their cooking, dining and entertaining needs. Pantry space was a must, but they didn't want a wall of cabinetry; instead, they requested decorative areas that are visually interesting. In addition to an island, the homeowners needed an eat-in area that had a view of a TV. For Jackie, the challenges of this project centered around its site, not on the clients or their must-haves. The limitations of a condo association and its building requirements can complicate the work of an interior designer who wants to give her clients the absolute best layout and most functional features possible.



Jackie designed a wonderfully cohesive space that makes the kitchen the center of attention, with the dining and living rooms also beautifully appointed. The family was very agreeable to the subtle coastal design, which includes all-white cabinetry around the perimeter of the kitchen, surrounding a blue kitchen island and dining table. The only other color in the room comes from the decor items and the shimmering, shell-like backsplash featuring tones of blue and gray.

Since storage was a priority for the family, Jackie had to use every available space while still creating an interesting look. Condo ceiling heights are notoriously low, and this one was no exception, so there was no way to stack the cabinets. Instead, Jackie built the island two cabinets deep—and did the same for the matching dining table. She also added tray storage above the refrigerator and a large pullout pantry. A matching pantry cabinet disguises a utility pipe, but still offers shallow cabinet storage

for cans and packaged goods.

The new, opened-up floor plan left two large support pillars standing in the middle of the room. Jackie used that to her advantage by building a bar between the pillars with a row of cabinetry, which contains two refrigerator drawers, a wine refrigerator and several pullout storage options.

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