



Family life can be a messy business, particularly when there are kids and life is busy. So a renovation becomes about more than style. Of course, style is important, and beauty and brightness are requirements, but resilient and easy-to-maintain are equally important factors. These clients required all of the above, and they brought on the talented, imaginative Lara Michelle to design their new kitchen.

Lara immediately went to work: the design team stripped the kitchen to its studs, as Lara married practicality and delight in her design. They replaced and added insulation, and put in LED lighting flush with the ceiling and the white cabinetry installed over new counters. The counters are topped in glossy white Dekton, a cutting-edge material resistant to stains, scratches and heat—no counter trivets required by this family! Marble mosaic tile backsplashes offer an elegant counterpoint, and a uniquely shaped island holds court in the center of the kitchen. While the island's shape is designed to maximize storage and workspace, the darkly stained cabinetry and quartzite create a stunning feast for the eyes. Translucent stools encourage hanging out without distracting from the magnificence of the island—or the floor, which is another piece of fun and gorgeous practicality. It's composed of porcelain to guard against slipping on bare feet fresh from the outdoor pool, while visually its pattern is a playful mosaic take on a giant zigzag.

This lighthearted floor sprawls out into the breakfast area and nearby mud-



room as well. A comfortably small table stands centered before two French doors in the breakfast area, topped with responsibly sourced crushed clam shells sealed in clear epoxy. Picture windows surround the table on two sides, and the translucent chandelier from Hudson Valley Lighting above adds class without obscuring the views. Lara designed the table's terrifically modern chairs, infusing them with her signature pops of color using

orange fabric from Designtex, and had them custom-made in her workshop. For a final touch and with a nod to the pool just outside those French doors, she commissioned local artist Jennifer Hannaford to recreate one of her bold water-themed paintings in the room's color palette. Altogether, the end result is one set of happy homeowners with a kitchen that's easy to keep and a joy to behold.



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