

Minimalist Approach Blends with Luxury Options



By Anita Shaw

The old adage, “Good things come in small packages,” suggests that many times, the best gems come in the tiniest of boxes.

For Nicole Migeon, AIA, principal of Nicole Migeon Architect, PLLC (NMA) in New York, NY, the gem she had to deliver was a professional quality kitchen in a very limited space. In addition to functionality for the client, an avid cook who loved to entertain, the kitchen’s overall design had to blend with the rest of the home – a luxury high-rise apartment on Manhattan’s Upper East Side.

Migeon was charged with gutting most of the 1970s 1,400-sq.-ft. apartment. In addition to the kitchen, she needed to create a spa master bath and upgrade a second bath.

Both Migeon and the client favored a minimalist style that was both inviting and functional. Open space was the hallmark of the new look, with interesting, eclectic pieces scattered throughout.

THE COOK’S CORNER

For Migeon, the kitchen was particularly challenging, as the dimensions of the room could not be changed. The client’s request was for a professional-style kitchen in a 9’x12’ space. “That was the whole constraint – to get a professional kitchen where the client wanted to cook Thanksgiving dinner for 20 in that size space,” stresses Migeon. “She loves to cook, so we had to make that work.”

To meet that request, NMA included an eight-burner, 48” Jenn-Air range in the space. “It has six burners and a grill that converts to two additional burners, as well as two ovens,” comments Migeon.

An oversized GE Monogram refrigerator was also included in the design, as well as a Miele dishwasher. “We even included a washer and dryer, per the client’s request,” Migeon states. “We had to figure out how to vent all of these different things – the range hood,



A 48” Jenn-Air range with eight burners is the centerpiece of this small but functional cook’s kitchen, designed by Nicole Migeon.

An oversized GE Monogram refrigerator, Miele dishwasher and Franke sink are teamed with maple cabinets to make this 9’x12’ kitchen a highly functional and beautiful space.

the washer and dryer. All of this had to be carefully detailed and planned so that she didn’t see the vents.”

NMA used maple wood custom cabinetry, paired with IceStone countertops in white. “The tile on the walls is an apple green colored glass tile, which picks up the specks of green in the countertop,” comments

Migeon. Finishing out the space was a Franke sink and a chef’s faucet.

Bright and energy-efficient recessed LED lights enhance the room’s natural light, and a Basalt floor with a Scarpalletto pattern that was raked adds warmth. “Basalt is not an uncommon stone, but the way it was finished was,” Migeon reports.

Project Highlights

- Nicole Migeon, AIA and principal of Nicole Migeon Architect, PLLC in New York, NY, designed this kitchen and master bath in keeping with the aesthetic of a luxury high-rise Manhattan apartment.
- In a space of only 9'x12', Migeon incorporated a 48" Jenn-Air eight-burner range, Miele dishwasher, GE Monogram oversized refrigerator, as well as a washer and dryer to create a highly functional space for an owner who was passionate about cooking.
- Maple cabinetry, neutral countertops and tile in shades of green and blue were used in both rooms, providing a cohesive feel. Basalt stone flooring with a Scarpalletto pattern was used throughout the apartment to provide flow.
- The client's number one request was to have a master bath that reflected the sensibilities of a spa, so Migeon incorporated a number of elements that would customize the space, including an Americh spa tub, a Thassos marble counter, Dornbracht hand held shower, reflective stained glass tile, Boffi shelves and custom niches, and a customer Kohler canted sink.



Glass tile, maple cabinetry and a Basalt stone floor that was used throughout the apartment were among the elements incorporated into the spa-inspired master bath.



An Americh tub served as the focal point in this spa bath, which also included Thassos marble countertops a custom Kohler sink and Boffi shelves.

Because the client had allergies, carpeting was not an option. As a result, Migeon was able to use the same floor throughout the entire apartment – even in the closets and on the outside. “There is this continuity throughout the whole apartment so you can just follow the path,” she continues.

THE SPA'S THE THING

The original cramped master bathroom underwent a total demo, going from 7'x8' to a more spacious 8'x10'. The client's desire for a spa bath dictated the overall design of the room, with special attention paid to the comfort and amenities that go along with this type of bath.

“The spa bath was so important to this client that it was basically why she hired me,” notes Migeon, who specializes in creating spas for resorts, as well as day spas and medical facilities. “She loves taking baths, and she spends a lot of time in her bathroom. So, we spent a lot of time in her bathroom, and a lot of money in her bathroom.”

The tub is a critical element in a spa-inspired bathroom, and the tub in this space does not disappoint. The custom Americh tub rises from the floor to meet the white Thassos marble counter, which extends horizontally to create a clear line across the room, according to Migeon.

“The Basalt stone on the floor turns up the sides of the tub, and the tub is easily accessed by steps made from the stone,” she explains.

A handheld Dornbracht shower-head provides a shower option.

Maple custom cabinetry similar to that of the kitchen is seen here as well, paired with a custom canted Kohler sink that leans to one side.

An accent wall is tiled with semi-reflective green-blue stained glass. Custom millwork adds character, and custom niches house towels. Boffi shelves hold beauty products.

“The master bath is just a beautiful place to be,” adds Migeon.

ARTISTIC ILLUSION

The second bathroom in the apartment posed its own set of challenges due to its tiny size – something that could not be changed, according to Migeon.

To make the room appear larger, she took one type of tile and used it everywhere. “The walls, and even the ceiling, are tiled in green ceramic,” explains Migeon.

The use of glass in the space also “makes everything feel a little lighter and more spacious,” she reports. The shower area is separated by one sheet of glass, which makes the area feel larger, according to Migeon. “We also used a glass Boffi sink that the client just fell in love with,” she reports.

Boffi shelving is featured in this bath as well, along with Kohler fixtures. Custom niches provide space for soap and accessories.

“The effect creates the feeling of inhabiting a distinct space that is efficient as well as stylish,” Migeon concludes.