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Varied menu from Kitchen Trends volume 2103

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Creating an interior from a diverse material palette requires a careful touch. The various materials need to work together in terms of texture and tone, but it is also important that cool surfaces, such as metal or stone, and warm surfaces, such as wood, are visually balanced.

For this project, Eric McClelland and Peter Lunney from Fleur De Lis Interior Design were asked to create a practical space with clearly defined work areas, using a variety of materials. There are a number of surfaces featured in the kitchen and finding a balance between warm and cool was central to the design, says McClelland.

"Silver automotive paint, chosen for its sheeny, reflective quality, features on the kitchen cabinetry," says McClelland. "This cool, metallic surface tones in with the stainless steel appliances, the black and white speckled granite countertops, and a feature concrete slab."

This slab acts as a divider between the workbench and breakfast area, and echoes the use of concrete elsewhere in the home.

Balancing these cool surfaces are warmer elements, including sycamore wood on a large feature wall, the wood breakfast table and cabinetry base finishes. The sycamore panel corresponds with the dining area in the open-plan space.

An unusual, warm-toned Pece limestone is used on the sideboard in the dining area and repeated as a ledge running along the sycamore wall. Its dark tone is due to an asphalt component running through it.

The breakfast table is made from paralam, a composite wood used traditionally for structural purposes, such as joists. This light-toned, textured wood is set against the cooler concrete slab, the granite countertops and the table's metal base.

On the floor, Jatoba African hardwood lines up against limestone tiles. These two materials define areas of use within the kitchen. While the hardwood marks out the workspace floor area, the limestone tiles define the eating space around the beverage bar and breakfast table.

"This kitchen's material palette is like a Mondrian painting," says McClelland. "Scale and proportion are all-important."

This kitchen by Eric McClelland and Peter Lunney celebrates a variety of materials, brought together by a contrast of tones, textures and temperatures.

Credit List

Interior designer : Eric McClelland ARIDO, NCIDQ, Peter Lunney ARIDO, NCIDQ, Fleur De Lis Interior Design (Toronto)

Architect : Murakami Design (Toronto)

Main contractor : Tamarack North Ltd.

Cabinets : Custom maple with silver automotive paint finish from Middle Brook Woodworking

Windows : Custom Spanish oak from Tradewood Industries

Flooring : Jatoba hardwood; limestone tiles

Countertops and backsplash : Arctic Char granite

Sideboard countertop : Pece limestone

Oven : Bosch

Cooktop and dishwasher : Miele

Refrigerator : GE

Microwave : Panasonic

Beverage center : GE

Faucets : Richelieu in stainless steel

Furniture : Bar stools; Webstools in black and natural; dining table; Custom Paralam beams in stained gray

Lighting : Eurolite, Eurofase

Window treatments : Tradewood Industries

Photography by Elaine Kilburn

