

# ONE OF TWO *Kitchens*



## INCREDIBLE!

A kitchen that puts the fun in functional

A magical shower of dancing light plays on the wall to greet visitors entering Marc and Marion Fredrickson's fantastical kitchen in North Park. The show — produced by rays of sunlight ricocheting off glass specks in the recycled-glass plank flooring — is not the only unusual highlight of this inventive approach to a mid-century modern kitchen.

As an architect, Marc designed his own house, which he describes as a cross between the architecture of Austrian

modernist Adolf Loos and 1930s Craftsman design — “with a little Frank Lloyd Wright thrown in, too. The way we approached the house design was that I worked more on the exterior and Marion worked more on the interior.”

When Marc was ready to proceed with the kitchen design his automotive-inspired ideas with metal cabinets and glossy colors didn't impress Marion. When he asked her what she wanted, she wasn't sure.

*Above and right:* Achieving the desired angled look for cabinets in this North Park kitchen design inspired by the movie *The Incredibles* was a challenge, particularly for the cabinets above the L-shaped island. These sloping cabinets, also L-shaped, look like sculptural pieces and are suspended from the ceiling by seven bars encased in aluminum. The pendant lights — or are they little UFOs? — are a perfect find for this space-age kitchen.

BY EVA DITLER | PHOTOGRAPHY BY GARY CONAUGHTON





"I had some '50s-style books, but there wasn't anything in them that hit me," says Marion. "We went to stores, home shows and tours but I was really bored with everything I saw."

What finally captured Marion's imagination? An animated movie.

"I am a serious movie buff and Marc and I go to see movies once a week. We were watching *The Incredibles* and I leaned over to Marc and whispered, 'That's the kind of kitchen I want.'"

For this movie, Pixar's artists portrayed an idealized American suburban '50s-styled kitchen that's a sort of space-age, retro take on modern with a tad of *The Jetsons* mixed in.

"I got as many images of that kitchen as I could," says Marc. "I developed ideas to make our kitchen a little more modern but there's a lot of stuff from the '50s and the atomic age. In fact, the cabinetmakers called our kitchen 'The Atomic Kitchen.'"

In the movie the cabinets slope up toward you at an angle and there are no

straight vertical surfaces. "I wanted to make the kitchen look like that but be functional at the same time," says Marc. "To make it work, our sloping faces are drawers and our vertical faces are doors."

Instead of cabinet handles — how boring would that be — there are framed holes. "You stick your finger in," says Marc, "bend it down and pull the drawer out. I wanted very simple circles but we couldn't find anything pre-manufactured, off the shelf, so the cabinetmakers at Kasewerk (who are artistic in their own right — one has a degree in sculpture) did a prototype of an aluminum tube that worked out great. It's very contemporary but looks 1950."

Celebratory bursts of cabinet laminate colors in burnt orange ("inspired by '50s menu-display plastic letters for fast-food restaurants," says Marion) and turquoise green are complemented by custom-stained rosewood veneer and quieted by blizzard white CaesarStone countertops.

"Mike Falconieri and his crew were

happy to make the different edge and backsplash details that helped pull the whole look together," says Marc.

Falconieri's crew also installed the dazzling plank flooring, which looks like seamless terrazzo even though it consists of individual square tiles.

Stainless-steel appliances seemed the best choice for this unusual kitchen — they are a good match for the silver rocket salt-and-pepper shakers and a collection of aluminum bundt pans.

"This kitchen is really easy to use," says Marion, "but my favorite thing is it doesn't look like everybody else's kitchen." ❧

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Pandora, the kitty, keeps warm by the corner fireplace that serves both kitchen and family room. One-half-inch mosaic glass tiles surround the anodized-aluminum frame. The recycled-glass tile flooring resembles terrazzo. "I had the installers autograph the floor," says homeowner and architect Marc Frederickson. "They did such an incredible job."