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JINX MCDONALD INTERIOR DESIGNS

LIVABLE LUXURY: A PENTHOUSE KITCHEN WITH HEART AND HORIZON

CONVERSATION WITH **BARBARA SCHWENK** ♦ WRITTEN BY **DANIELLE PORTER**



Perched above the sparkling waterways of Naples, Florida, this Monaco Penthouse kitchen is a study in warm minimalism and natural sophistication. Recently reimaged by designer Barbara Schwenk of Jinx McDonald, the kitchen is a perfect blend of practicality and elegant space for family life and entertaining, an equal parts social centerpiece and serene retreat.

The Jinx McDonald team, brought onto the project through longtime collaborators at Eecon Construction Services, quickly connected with the out-of-town homeowners, who wanted to reimagine their part-time residence into something lighter, more functional, and family-friendly. “They had owned the unit for years,” Schwenk explains, “but it felt dated and compartmentalized. They wanted a space that felt open, natural, and practical for gatherings with their grown children.”

The renovation process was a delicate balance of vision and adaptation. Initially, Schwenk planned to remove the kitchen wall and replace it with an open island. However, demolition revealed a column of pipes running through space, forcing a pivot in the design. Instead of seeing this as a setback, she embraced the challenge. “We wrapped the column in oak and incorporated it into the island, creating a striking feature with floating shelving and

Natural textures and clean lines bring a sense of calm to this open-concept penthouse kitchen, where function and form unfold in quiet harmony.



The material meets the mood in this intimate moment—where woven textures, sculptural lighting, and curated shelving invite everyday rituals to feel quietly elevated.



an artistic wine rack,” she shares.

The choice of materials was a direct reflection of the clients’ draw to all things nautical and natural. The warm oak cabinetry from Goguens Kitchens Co. set the foundation for a stunning pairing of counters in Black Ice leather-finished quartz and Mont Blanc Nuova quartzite. The dark veining in the lighter counter echoes the sleek black detailing throughout the space, highlighted in the Visual Comfort pendant lights above the island.

While condo living is often characterized by limited space, the layout here prioritized efficient storage solutions. “We lost a full wall when we opened the kitchen, so we needed to think smart,” Schwenk says. By integrating full-height pantry cabinets with pull-out drawers, Schwenk was able to maximize vertical space and ensure easy access to kitchen essentials. Every inch was optimized, offering both beauty and practicality.

Behind the range within this wall of storage lies one of the most striking features in the kitchen: a reeded, wood-look tile backsplash. “It’s one of those moments that makes the space feel visually rich,” Schwenk notes. “Even though it’s tile, the texture gives it a natural softness that perfectly integrates with the full-height storage cabinets”.

While the penthouse offers sweeping views of the bay—part of Naples’ intercoastal system—it consciously avoids the typical trappings of “coastal” design. There are no seashell motifs or overt nautical nods. Instead, the interior and furniture alike channel the Florida landscape through a more sophisticated lens. Natural textures, like jute rugs and oak woodwork, evoke a sense of place without veering into pastiche. “It feels connected to Florida,” the designer says, “but not in a stereotypical way.”

The final result is a kitchen that balances function, beauty, and meaning. A space that embraces spontaneity without sacrificing elegance. And perhaps most memorably, a space born from trust. “They were just dream clients,” Schwenk shares. “Easygoing, collaborative, decisive. It made every decision smoother—and in the end, I think you can feel that harmony in the space.” ♦

Resource: Designer: Jinx McDonald Interior Designs; Barbara Schwenk; Naples, FL, 239.598.4800; jinxmcdonald.com.

