

KITCHEN PROFILE

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RENO ON THE RUN

*Move from Toronto prompted
Outremont kitchen makeover*

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PHOTOGRAPHY MONTREAL HOME
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Catlin found the lighting fixture in Toronto through a friend's importing business and loved it instantly—so much so that she purchased it without even knowing exactly where she would install it. Now on a dimmer, the light is a centrepiece in the kitchen and provides a dash of warm colour.



AFTER CATLIN STOTHERS AND HER HUSBAND Jean-Marc Piché decided they were moving to Montreal from Toronto in 2011, they had only six weeks to renovate their newly purchased Outremont home.

As an interior designer, Catlin has never shied away from challenges of this sort. So despite having a career and two children under ten years old, and being over 500 kilometres away in Toronto, she got started designing an elegant kitchen for the family's new home.

"We entertain a lot, and my husband loves cooking, so we knew we wanted to do something very special with the kitchen," said Catlin. "In fact, that was the only room in the house that we did major renovations on. It's an older home but most of the other necessary work, like updating the bathrooms, had been done already."

Catlin began designing the kitchen after seeing the space only twice. Once the couple had possession of the home, she flew to Montreal to monitor progress up to three times each week. "It was definitely hectic," she said. "It wasn't a normal amount of time to do a project like this."

Before Catlin and her husband decided to knock down a dividing wall and open up the kitchen space completely, it was originally comprised of two smaller rooms.

"Deciding to knock down that wall and remove a built-in armoire from another wall were two of the best decisions in this project," said Catlin. "We had originally planned on replacing the armoire with a wall for art, but removing it created an opening that spans the depth of the house and lets in so much light." 

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(Above) The oak wall is covering a brick wall. The couple decided that the wood created a warmer tone than the brick, and it also serves as an interesting feature wall in the room. (Opposite) The very atypical kitchen table measures 7.5 feet in length and is 26 inches deep. Made of solid walnut, it's a versatile piece and doubles as a kitchen island. As Catlin pointed out, the legs can easily be cut to fit the requirements of a new room if ever the couple moves.





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(Left) The gas stove by American Range is covered by an industrial-strength hood, which the couple purchased to withstand high heat and intensity, as Jean-Marc loves to cook. The couple opted for one large glass panel as a backsplash to the stove, as opposed to a tiled pattern, in order to maintain the clean lines that run through the room. (Above) The Ramacieri Soligo ceramic floor tiles measure 6 by 32 inches and are ideal for a high-traffic area. The tiles have a matte finish coupled with a touch of grain for texture.

Despite being only slightly more than 260 square feet, the kitchen appears quite large and open, and is bathed in a healthy balance of natural light and the warm glow created by a unique lighting fixture, which is visible from the street when illuminated. The fixture hangs over a solid walnut kitchen table that serves as an island when entertaining guests and as a homework station for the couple's children. The walnut table and amber lighting fixture add two important elements of colour to an otherwise monochromatic kitchen.

“The wood wall is another important feature in the space,” said Catlin, referring to a narrow wall of raw European oak panels that had originally been intended for sliding doors to the pantry. “We thought the wall really added an interesting, organic feel and made the room a bit warmer.”

The wood accents create a sense of unity between the kitchen and the rest of the home which, as with many older houses in Outremont, contains a lot of exposed wood. The subtle grain in the rich grey flooring tiles from Ramacieri Soligo also acts as a balance between the wood throughout the house and the sleek design of the kitchen.

“The material doesn't exactly emulate wood, but you almost have to walk on it to know that it's tile,” explained Catlin.

The couple is pleased that the kitchen offers the family both functionality and beauty. “It's such a central part of our home,” said Catlin. “It tolerates so much traffic, and we just love it.”



The opening between the kitchen and dining room allows natural light to fill the area. The couple had the intention of installing cabinets in that space, but once the wall was removed during renovations, Catlin and her husband immediately changed their plans when they saw the effect the opening had on the entire ground floor. Much of the artwork in the home is by Catlin herself.