

## MANSION

## ANNOTATED ROOM

# Turning a Kitchen into a Haven

These homeowners wanted to create a peaceful place to escape the Houston hubbub

By VAISHNAVI NAYEL TALAWADEKAR

When clinical psychotherapist Elizabeth McIngvale and her oil-and-gas financier husband, Matthew Mackey, both in their 30s, decided to construct a 6,000-square-foot home in Houston's historic Houston Heights neighborhood, they knew their priorities. "We wanted the interior to be a tranquil haven far removed from the city," says Dr. McIngvale. Soon after, the couple enlisted interior designer William W. Stubbs, in his 60s, who had served three generations of Dr. McIngvale's family, and who had known her since she was a little girl.

Having struggled with OCD and mental health, Dr. McIngvale wanted simple, uncluttered spaces. It was important for her that the aesthetic have soft tones and clean design.

"As the heart of the home, the kitchen was especially important for me," says Dr. McIngvale, who gave Mr. Stubbs a little look-book she had put together. The end result, she says, was exactly as she had imagined.

"The kitchen serves as a calming oasis for our family. It's pared back but full of incredible features. For the first time in my life, I have a home that provides peace and tranquility like I've never experienced," she says.

Here are some of the design elements of the \$300,000 kitchen.



1. The Made Goods chandelier is crafted out of natural coco beads. "We chose this because of its soft and organic appearance. It is a rustic counterpoint to the other hard and precise finishes in the kitchen," says Mr. Stubbs. // **Price: \$2,950**

2. The chairs framing the banquette are from Bernhardt, and feature a solid steel frame in a hammered steel finish. They were chosen by the designer for their sturdy yet comfortable build. // **Price: \$1,094 per chair**

3. A trifecta of daisy-white Hudson Valley

Martini Pendants overarch the island, providing task lighting for the counter below. // **Price: \$650 per pendant**

4. The custom banquette serves as a cozy nook for lazy brunches and intimate dinners. "The fabric from Kravet straddles form and function. It has a soft, tactile hand, but is also kid-friendly and stain-resistant," says Mr. Stubbs. // **Price: \$1,600 for upholstery**

5. The cabinetry has a blond oak finish that echoes the surrounding monochromatic scheme. // **Price: \$60,000**

6. The backsplash is composed of book-matched Dekton Aura by Cosentino. "While many kitchens have upper cabinets flanking the range, Ms. McIngvale loved the idea of keeping that wall uninterrupted and creating a stunning focal point instead. It really allows the space to breathe and creates a calming sense of openness," Mr. Stubbs explains. // **Price: \$11,000**

7. The countertops, both along the periphery and on the waterfall island, are crowned by Et Calacatta Gold Silestone by Cosentino. "They add subtle drama while also beautifully withstanding everyday

wear and tear for this young family of four," says Mr. Stubbs. // **Price: \$15,000**

8. The floor wears French oak engineered hardwood, and holds a mirror to the soft wood grain of the cabinetry. // **Price: \$10,000**

9. The hood, a custom French plaster design, mirrors the angular build of the island, while subtly camouflaging against the backsplash. It is outfitted with a hood liner and blower from Wolf. // **Price: \$5,100 for hood, liner and blower**