

The State

QUIET AND SPARE, OR BOLD AND DRAMATIC, THESE FOUR EAT-IN KITCHENS SPEAK VOLUMES ABOUT THE PEOPLE WHO USE THEM EVERY DAY.

Produced by CAMERON MACNEIL *and* MICHAEL PENNEY

Text by ERIKA DE VASCONCELOS | *Photography by* MICHAEL GRAYDON

No. 1 MODERN
REVIVAL

ment Kitchen

KEY INGREDIENTS

SIZE: 160 sq.ft.

CABINETS: MDF with a matte lacquer finish

HARDWARE: Invisible recessed grip system

BACKSPLASH: Lacquered MDF

COUNTERS: White laminate

FLOORING: Engineered oak

SINK: Stainless steel undermount with built-in soap dispenser

FAUCET: Chrome, single-lever

TABLE: Oiled solid oak; 2½' x 5½'

MAXIMUM SEATING: 4 (6 squeezed)

CLEVER MINIMALISM

A panel of frosted glass slides across the minimal upper shelves. The light is a modern classic by Danish designer Poul Henningsen. It's a perfect complement to the statement oiled-oak bench and table, which can be used as an extra work surface. **Design** of table, bench, Bulthaup (built by Left Right Designs); **tea towel**, Bookhou; **bowls** (on table), Hollace Cluny.

STRONG HORIZONTALS

The cabinetry's wide pulls and horizontally oriented lines balance the verticality of the townhouse's high ceilings. Both a bright, sleek white, the high-end laminate countertop and lacquered MDF backsplash have an almost seamless look, making the cooktop nearly disappear. A streamlined hood maintains the minimalist look, as does the lack of hardware: each drawer has an invisible slanted edge that makes for easy gripping. **Sink, faucet, counter, backsplash, shelves, cutting board, slatted plinth, cabinets, Bulthaup; cooktop, Miele; hood, Thermador; cream and sugar set, Good Egg; espresso pot, High Tech.**



“A lot of people think modernism is cold, but I think we’ve proved them wrong”



Homeowners Todd Wood and Jennifer Mahoney in their downtown Toronto townhouse.

Homeowners Todd Wood and Jennifer Mahoney both work in fields of design: he’s an industrial designer, while she has a master’s degree in landscape architecture. So when the time came to choose a kitchen for their newly built townhouse in downtown Toronto, the couple knew they wanted a spare, modern kitchen that encapsulated many of the principles they’d read about in a treasured book, *Living and Eating* by John Pawson, a minimalist architect they both admire for his pared-down-to-essentials philosophy. “When we discovered Bulthaup’s b1 series, it epitomized for us the values we had read about and loved in Pawson’s work,” says Todd. The couple worked with designer Antje Bulthaup to achieve a look that blends simple forms with a strong emphasis on horizontal lines, and contrasted that with the sensuality of beautifully oiled, natural wood in a table and bench that were specially created for the space. Classic mid-century Danish lighting and chairs that are still in production 50 years later attest to the enduring quality of modern design. “We’ve always aspired to have a really nice, proper kitchen,” says Todd.

ORGANIC WOOD

The rigorously minimalist table and extra-long bench were built of carefully selected solid oak using hidden joinery techniques. The beautiful grain is left natural; the wood is simply oiled, adding an organic element to the room while maintaining the purity of the aesthetic. The art also plays up the furniture’s organic quality. **Flooring, through Selyans; artwork, Tammy Ratcliff.**



APPLIANCE CENTRE

To keep the kitchen feeling open, all the vertical elements were combined into a single unit. The 24"-wide fridge is incorporated into cabinetry, while the industrial-style, metal staircase is a perfect modern complement to the room.

Oven, Miele; fridge, Liebherr.

WHAT MAKES THIS KITCHEN SPECIAL?

- Strong horizontal lines
- Custom oiled-oak table and bench
- Integrated drawer pulls
- Streamlined appliances that virtually disappear
- Clever uses of affordable materials