



## Pro Tip

“One of the most important things to consider is the flow of light. Try not to interrupt it. Often, we add LED can lights, task lighting and decorative lighting. But the natural, organic light is best.”

— KITCHEN DESIGNER MIKAL OTTEN

### ⌘ Modern Classic

Taking down walls opened this once-dark Cherry Creek kitchen to the adjacent family room and an abundance of natural light. “The original kitchen was dark, imposing, heavily embellished,” kitchen designer Mikal Otten says. But now, “the natural light is incredible!” The 600-square-foot space gained all that sunshine when a small opening over the sink grew dramatically and other walls closing off the cooking space were removed. “We chose soft-white perimeter cabinets and a Carrara-like quartz for the perimeter countertops,” Otten says. “I love how the natural light reflects off the lighter surfaces. Even with the kitchen being in the center of the home, the room feels airy and spacious.”

Cabinet panels mask Sub-Zero appliances, while a 48-inch dual-fuel Wolf range topped with a custom steel hood serves as the room’s centerpiece. “We chose a matte-finished steel for the hood to soften the visual mass,” Otten says. “It’s impressive but not too heavy visually.” Hudson Valley chandeliers over the island repeat the metallic-silver finish.

Dark countertops top a dark, rich walnut island, serving as a counterpoint to the room’s white envelope. “The honed black quartz from Pental on the island is my all-time favorite,” designer Kim Layne says. At the far end of the island, tall cabinet doors open to reveal a coffee and breakfast station. And next to it, a doorway leads to a

pantry wrapped in high-gloss blue cabinets. That bold choice, Layne says, “takes a pretty kitchen and makes it unique and outstanding.” Builder Dan Fuller attributes the renovation’s success to the design team’s measured approach. “Decisions about walls, materials and sight lines were not rushed and were very calculated,” he says. “When you cover all of those bases, this is the type of kitchen you get.”

**KITCHEN DESIGNER:** Exquisite Kitchen Design, Mikal Otten; [myekdesign.com](http://myekdesign.com)

**INTERIOR DESIGNER:** Kim Layne Interiors, Kim Layne, ASID; [kimlayneinteriors.com](http://kimlayneinteriors.com)

**BUILDER:** Haley Custom Homes, Dan Fuller; [haleycustomhomes.com](http://haleycustomhomes.com)

COREY ANTHONY KLINE