

fresh OUTLOOK

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Moorish-inspired tiles and indigo cabinets bring vibrant pattern and color to a once-dated townhouse kitchen.



Homeowner and designer-architect Ili Hidalgo-Nilsson chose white for perimeter and island cabinetry to balance the scale and color of the bold backsplash tiles in her new open-plan kitchen.

ILI HIDALGO-NILSSON IS HAPPY EVERY TIME SHE COMES DOWN THE STAIRS IN HER ATLANTA HOME AND SEES HER KITCHEN,

because it reminds her of her family background. "The backsplash tiles were definitely the starting point of the design because they relate to my Spanish heritage," says the architect and designer, who spent her childhood in Puerto Rico and whose ancestors came from Spain. (See the bathroom she designed for the same house in "Calming Waves," page 90.) Ili researched dozens of possibilities before deciding on these Moorish-inspired concrete tiles with their bold pattern and navy-and-white color scheme.

The 1990s-era kitchen didn't always have such a lively persona. The townhouse's 12-foot ceilings and plentiful windows convinced Ili to buy it. The kitchen, however, was dark and needed a fresh start, so she gutted it. With the backsplash tiles as her focal point, Ili designed the L-shape space to look good from several adjacent rooms. The range wall cabinetry and the island are a neutral, slightly grayish white, but she went bold on the adjacent wall with floor-to-ceiling cabinetry painted a glossy indigo. "That wall grounds the kitchen," Ili says. "And blue is my go-to color." The cabinets have a sheen that matches the high-gloss paint Ili used on all walls, trim, doors, and stair rails throughout the townhouse to help give the home a lustrous glow.

Other elements in the kitchen are purposefully low-key to allow the tiles to stand out. Cabinetry panels on the range hood and refrigerator keep things uniform throughout the room. Similarly, white quartz countertops and acrylic barstools are contemporary yet understated. On either side of the range, Ili chose skinny white tiles as a background for the open shelves so the kitchen wouldn't be too busy. "I decided not to run the patterned tiles all the way across the



ABOVE A 12-foot-tall wall of indigo cabinetry includes a steam oven (not shown), as well as a hidden appliance area for the coffeemaker and blender. **OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT** Ili livened up the existing butler's pantry with lavender paint, a new light fixture, and a mirrored backsplash. **OPPOSITE, TOP RIGHT** Deep drawers flanking the range hold pots, pans, and baking dishes. The hood is mostly wood, but for safety reasons (as well as aesthetics), Ili included a band of stainless steel closest to the heat. **OPPOSITE BOTTOM** An extra-deep stainless-steel sink is paired with a single-handle faucet. Ili has become so accustomed to the faucet's handy touchless feature that she finds herself expecting the same function on all faucets.

back wall," she says. "This way the shelves don't compete." Black iron brackets supporting the shelves provide a counterpoint to the white.

As a perfect punctuation mark to the contemporary-meets-classic design, Ili hung slim turned-wood pendants on either side of the range hood. "I love their shape," she says. "They even sort of match the tile!"

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“THE BACKSPLASH TILES WERE DEFINITELY THE STARTING POINT OF THE DESIGN BECAUSE THEY RELATE TO MY SPANISH HERITAGE.”

Ili Hidalgo-Nilsson, homeowner and designer

DREAM KITCHENS & BATHS.

Towson—Waterstone Faucets; *waterstoneco.com*. Dining table Dakota table base—Julian Chichester; *julianchichester.com*. Dining chairs Delphi—Mr. Brown, *mrbrownhome.com*.

FRESH OUTLOOK

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Architecture, interior design & construction—Ili Hidalgo-Nilsson, NCARB, NCIDQ, Terracotta Design Build Co., Decatur, Georgia; 404/377-0906; *terracottadesignbuild.com*. **Blue cabinet paint** Dark Knight SW 6237, white cabinet paint Rock Candy SW 6231—The Sherwin-Williams Co.; 800/474-3794; *sherwin-williams.com* [P]. **Tile above range**—Granada Tile; *granadatile.com*. **White glazed tile**—The Tile Shop; 888/398-6595; *tilesshop.com*. **Range, hood, appliances**—Thermador; 800/735-4328; *thermador.com*. **Countertop** Cloud quartz—LG Viatera; *lgiaterausa.com*. **Drawer pulls**—Lew's Hardware; *lewisdolin.com*. **Faucet**—Delta Faucet Co.; 800/345-3358; *deltafaucet.com*. **Barstools**—CB2; 800/606-6252; *cb2.com*. **Bar cabinet hardware**—Anthropologic; 800/309-2500; *anthropologic.com*. **Light fixture**—World Market; 877/967-5362; *worldmarket.com*.

ON THE MENU

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Architecture—Steve Stand, Stand Architects, Inc., Aliso Viejo, California; 949/677-9304; *standarchitects.com*. **Interior design**—Wendy and Greg Blackband, Rachel Azzolina, lead designer, Blackband Design, Costa Mesa, California; 949/872-2234; *blackbanddesign.com*. **Construction**—RS Myers Co., Laguna Niguel, California; 949/542-4000; *rsmyerscompany.com*. **Professional pantry organization**—Katie Koentje, The Neat Method, San Diego; 858/952-9850; *neatmethod.com*. **Cabinetry** riftsawn oak, backsplash at range, shelf, pot rail—custom. **Cabinet hardware**—Rocky Mountain Hardware; 888/788-2013; *rockymountainhardware.com*. **Countertops and backsplash** honed Calacatta Eccellente marble—Ollin, Anaheim, California; 714/535-0800; *ollinstone.com*. **Accent tile glass mosaic** by Artistic Tile—through Famosa, Costa Mesa, California; 714/800-1642; *famosatile.com*. **Sinks**—Julien, Inc.; 800/461-3377; *julien.ca*. **Faucets**—Waterstone Faucets; 888/304-0660; *waterstoneco.com*. **Dog bowl filler**—Hansgrohe; 800/334-0455; *hansgrohe-usa.com*. **Range**—Wolf

Appliance, Inc.; 800/332-9513; *subzero-wolf.com*. **Refrigerator**—Sub-Zero, Inc.; 800/222-7820; *subzero-wolf.com*. **Pendant lighting at island** Hammered Glass Pendant by Regina Andrew Design—Candelabra; 843/849-7775; *shopcandelabra.com*. **Barstools** Alto—Powell & Bonnell; 800/272-2058; *powellandbonnell.com*. **Pantry flooring** Tabarka Studio—Ann Sacks; 800/278-8453; *annsacks.com*. **Pantry cabinet paint** Hale Navy—Benjamin Moore; 855/724-6802; *benjaminmoore.com* [P]. **Pantry backsplash tile**—Walker Zanger; 877/611-0199; *walkerzanger.com*. **Pantry pendant** Whisk—Currey & Co.; *curreycodealers.com*.

DRAMATIC DETAILS

Pages 76–79

Interior design—Amy Fischer, Spectrum Interior Design, Inc., Mountain View, California; 650/948-1913; *spectruminteriordesign.com*. **Construction**—Owen Signature Homes, Los Altos, California; 650/948-9420; *owenhomes.com*. **Fabrication of vanity and linen cabinet**—Wood Works Custom Cabinetry; *woodworkscustom.com*. **Vanity knobs** 1½-inch Round Glass Knob in polished nickel, cup pulls 4-inch Round Glass Pull in polished nickel; pulls 4- and 6-inch Chatham Pull in polished nickel—Restoration Hardware; *rh.com*. **Tub** Victoria + Albert York Traditional Double-Ended, sinks Kohler Devonshire undermount, sink and tub fixtures Herbeau Creations Royale in polished nickel, shower fixtures California Faucets—through Belmont Hardware; *belmonthardware.com*. **Pendant lights and chandeliers** Constructivism in Midnight Grey—Fine Art Lamps; *fineartlamps.com*. **Shower wall** honed Thassos marble tile, rail molding AKDO Classic Rail Molding in honed Thassos marble, mirror frame molding AKDO Narrow Liner in honed Thassos marble, shower floor Thassos honed marble tile—All Natural Stone; *allnaturalstone.com*. **Flooring** polished white Carrara mosaic, shower wall panel and shampoo niche offset honed mosaic Mamara Grey marble by Alyse Edwards, style We're Not Trying, We Just Are—Bedrosians; *bedrosians.com*. **Vanity** Voguebay polished and honed natural Split Plus Carrara marble—Formation Stone; *formationstone.com*. **Ceiling paper** Phillip Jeffries Chambers of Charcoal Limited Quartz 1020—DeSousa Hughes; *desousahughes.com* [T]. **Wallpaper** Malabar CS Gilver Charcoal 95/7043—Kravet; 800/645-9068; *kravet.com*.

VIEW FINDER

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Interior design—Kimberly Harper, Harper Howey Interiors, Fayetteville, Arkansas; 479/750-7300; *harperhoweyinteriors.com*. **Cabinet hardware** Lily Pull in nickel—Lisa Jarvis; *lisa-jarvis.com*. **Countertops** Calacatta Gold marble—contact local cut stone suppliers. **Sink, shower faucets, tub filler** Virage in polished nickel—Brizo; *brizo.com*. **Tub** Parisian 1-146—MTI; *mtibaths.com*. **Mirrors** LED rectangular wall mirror—Diamond Home; *elkgrouppinternational.com*. **Chandelier** Tilda—Arteriors Home; 877/488-8866; *arteriorshome.com* [T]. **Flooring and shower walls** Statuario Extra—Eleganza; *eleganzatiles.com*. **Shower floor** tile Carrara marble hex mosaic—Daltile; 800/933-8453; *daltile.com*. **Window and shower door** custom—RGC Glass, Inc.; *rgc-glass.com*.

JUST THEIR STYLE

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Design and construction—Infinite Home, Suwanee, Georgia; 770/316-4260; *infinitehome.com*. **Cabinetry** custom—through Infinite Home, Suwanee, Georgia; 770/316-4260; *infinitehome.com*. **Cabinet hardware**—Top Knobs; *topknobs.com*. **Countertops** Delicatus Vintage granite—Levantina; *levantina.com*. **Wall sconces**—Visual Comfort; *visualcomfortlightinglights.com*. **Chandelier**—Elk Lighting; *elklighting.com*. **Tub** Kahlo 4—MTI; *mtibaths.com*. **Tub, sink, and shower fixtures**—Kohler Co.; 800/456-4537; *us.kohler.com*. **Wall tile**—Porcelanosa; *porcelanosa-usa.com*. **Floor and accent tile**—Specialty Tile; *specialtytile.com*.

CALMING WAVES

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Architecture, interior design, and construction—Ili Hidalgo-Nilsson, Terracotta Design Build Co., Decatur, Georgia; 404/377-0906; *terracottadesignbuild.com*. **Cabinet paint**—Gale Force SW 7605—The Sherwin-Williams Co.; 800/474-3794; *sherwin-williams.com* [P]. **Cabinet pulls and knobs** Bar series in polished chrome—Lew's Hardware by Lewis Dolin, Westchester County, New York; 914/232-7465; *lewisdolin.com*. **Countertops** White Macaubas quartzite—through Intown Design, Atlanta; 404/812-3820; *intowndesigninc.com*. **Tub** Rachel, discontinued—Wyndham Collection; 888/522-8476; *wyndhamcollection.com*. **Tub and sink faucets, shower fixtures**—