

This white kitchen combines clean-lined cabinetry with traditional oak flooring and polished black granite counters. A narrow window in the steep gable accents the home's strong shapes.



Comfortable Contemporary

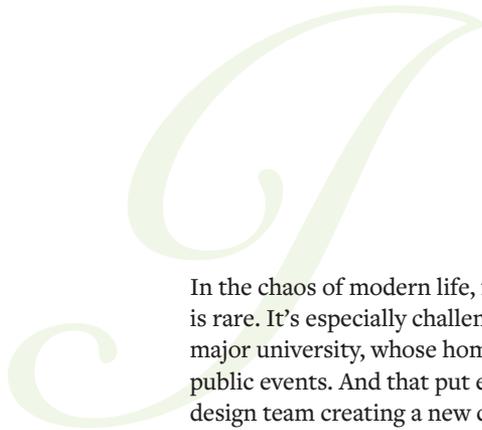
Designed for the current and future chancellors of a major university, an elegant new home puts a twist on traditional style.

BY ANDRIA HAYDAY | PHOTOS BRIE WILLIAMS | FIELD EDITOR ANDREA CAUGHEY



A stainless steel range hood is mounted above a stainless steel gas range. The range has a large oven door and a control panel with multiple knobs. A stainless steel kettle and a pot are on the stovetop. Below the range hood, there is a shelf with various bottles and containers. The range is set against a white wall with a window in the background.





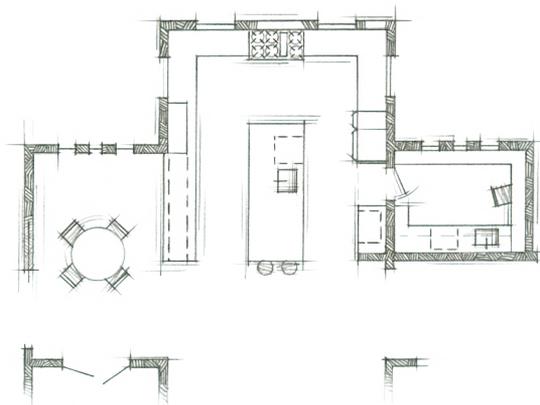
In the chaos of modern life, finding a calm refuge is rare. It's especially challenging for the leader of a major university, whose home is routinely used for public events. And that put extra pressure on the design team creating a new chancellor's residence at North Carolina State University in Raleigh.

"We had a huge contingent of people watching us like Kabuki theater," says lead architect Marvin Malecha, dean of NCSU's College of Design. "On one side were the people who wanted *Gone with the Wind's* Tara. On the other side were those who said, 'This is a design school—we should have cutting-edge modernism.'"

Opposite: The tall casement windows flanking the range underscore the kitchen's strong symmetry. A wine cooler and warming drawer tuck into the 4x10-foot island. **Above right:** A curved sprayer partners with an angular faucet and a push-button disposal at the island sink. **Right:** Black paint on the windows' slender muntins evokes the look of French metal casements. Polished black countertops reflect the light.

To achieve a pleasing balance, Malecha hewed to a principle he calls "comfortable modernism." Inspired by Colonial mansions, the chancellor's residence features a series of rectangular modules with steep gables, joined like pearls on a taut string. Each module evokes a "very strong, familiar form," Malecha says, like a steep-roof cottage in a child's simple drawing. The central living area is grandly scaled to handle big receptions. But the kitchen and family room are gently pulled aside in their own wing, beyond a sliding mahogany-and-glass door.

The result is a light-filled family sanctuary with a high cathedral ceiling and windows facing all four compass directions. "The feeling of light and space is amazing," interior designer Judy Pickett says.





“The house draws on tradition, but it presents itself in a very modern way.”

Marvin Malecha
architect

The kitchen and family room are essentially mirror images: two 18-foot squares divided by an open corridor and sharing the same lofty ceiling.

From the start, Pickett knew the kitchen’s decor would be serene and white; alabaster walls define the house, creating an ideal backdrop for artwork. The styling is clean-lined and contemporary, but it’s not cold. “There’s a real sense of nostalgia and comfort,” Pickett says. The ceiling features beams and planks, and the flat-panel cabinetry recalls Shaker traditions. The chrome hardware is modern, but the shapes feel familiar. Traditional oak flooring and touches of mahogany add considerable warmth throughout the home.

The kitchen’s most spectacular element is the range hood. The designers opted for a sculptural custom hood in stainless steel. “We needed a work of art, and this is it,” Malecha says. Soaring almost 10 feet, like the windows and cabinets, the hood completes the room’s composition. “It wouldn’t work without those windows on both sides,” Pickett says.

Quietly detailed, the home is timeless and elegant. One of the many visitors recently remarked that the space has a calming effect. For the design team, it was the greatest of compliments.

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DESIGNER INSIGHTS

Elements of Modern Design

Strong, simple shapes and quiet details contribute to the clean-lined look and feel of this home.

- **Stick to a grid.** A motif of squares and rectangles extends throughout the house—influencing everything from the layout to the cabinetry style to the windowpanes. “Every element in the house relates to something else for a sense of order and harmony,” architect Marvin Malecha says.

- **Extend to new heights.** The kitchen’s walls rise 12 feet before the ceiling begins its 45-degree climb. Doors and windows are proportioned accordingly, and the cabinetry soars 10 feet high. The scale is especially important at the pass-through to the breakfast nook where the bottom edge of the see-through display cabinets is 6 feet off the ground.

Left: Decorative halogen pendants marry a large glass sphere with a perforated nickel cone.

Below left: Just off the kitchen, a multiuse scullery includes a desk plus an auxiliary sink and dishwasher (not shown).

Opposite: The breakfast nook shares views and light with the kitchen. A concentric chandelier and a round table with an edgy base add softness and sophistication.



