

# TRENDS®

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GLASS CONSTRUCTION





## Walk the line

A single piece of furniture situated between a glass exterior wall and an expansive living area serves as a gourmet's workstation



**Architect:** Todd Ray and John Burke, AIA, Studio 27 Architecture (Washington, DC)  
**Contractor:** Glass Construction, NARI, ABC  
**Kitchen manufacturer:** Carl Tesse, Millwork  
**Cabinets:** Quartersawn maple veneer plywood  
**Countertops:** Concrete Jungle  
**Flooring:** Accent Flooring  
**Tile installer:** John Banda  
**Tiles:** Dal-Tile  
**Windows:** Hope's Windows, Crawford Sales Associates  
**Glass blocks:** Pittsburgh Corning  
**Lighting:** Dominion Electrical Supply Company  
**Backsplash:** AK Metal Fabricators  
**Plumbing:** Ferguson Plumbing  
**Sink:** Kohler  
**Faucets:** Grohe  
**Hot water systems:** Fluid Water Heaters  
**Oven, cooktop and ventilation:** Thermador  
**Microwave:** Sharp  
**Refrigerator:** Sub-Zero  
**Dishwasher:** Bosch  
**Waste unit:** In-Sink-Erator

**Photography by** Anice Hoachlander



The physical barriers separating the living, dining and kitchen areas are increasingly being removed in the quest for more spacious homes. This has required an entirely new approach to the composition of these highly functional areas.

Open-plan living is particularly challenging for kitchens, especially when you consider the sheer number of elements – from large appliances to small cooking tools – this area is required to house.

An increasingly popular design option is to treat the kitchen not as specialized area, but as an

additional living space, disguising the appliances and other equipment as pieces of furniture.

In the open-plan living area featured here, architects Todd Ray and John Burke have gone a step further and housed an entire kitchen in a single piece, albeit one that comprises many different elements. Ray describes it as inverting the traditional U-plan of a kitchen to facilitate easy circulation and maximize space efficiency.

"It's a simple composition that is balanced by the tension between the concrete and glass cabinet at one end and the large maple cupboard at the other," says Ray.

**Preceding pages:** An entire kitchen is contained within a single piece of furniture. On one side is the meal preparation area, on the other is the clearing up zone, its dishwasher concealed behind cabinetry.

**This page:** The concrete and glass cabinet faces the dining area. This tall element is balanced at the other end of the countertop by a large maple-veneer cupboard which houses the refrigerator and pantry.



In between these two asymmetrical elements, the polished concrete countertop is separated by a raised stainless steel backsplash. This thin metallic race way conceals the kitchen's electrical wiring.

"The backsplash containing the circuitry is an example of how this kitchen's functional elements are disguised as aesthetic pieces," says Ray. Above the countertops, the horizontal shelving is reminiscent of a restaurant's serving area, where meals are compiled

ready for waiting staff to carry them into the dining area.

"The layout is inspired by restaurant design, addressing cooking and food preparation as a linear process - from storage to preparation and cleaning. The line ends at the dining table next to the cast concrete china tower."

Shelving is made from painted steel frames with stainless steel grating, echoing the internal ceiling rafters. They match the long, horizontal window framed by glass bricks on the opposite

exterior wall.

As this wall faces south, Ray says the glass bricks enabled him to take advantage of the natural light, without compromising the homeowner's privacy.

**Above:** Horizontal shelving above the countertop is in line with the window framed by glass bricks. This kitchen's simple material palette of steel, maple-veneer cabinetry, glass and polished concrete, matches not only the elevations in the living area, but also the materials used throughout the house.