



First up for Jim was to design the kitchen cabinets. He chose a traditional recessed panel door in Ralph Lauren Boot Black, which is a very deep black color with blue undertones. The style and color harken back to colonial times, as was the intention. But it was too somber for Jim, so he added a high-gloss finish, giving the cabinets elegance and functionality. The many windows flood the space with light, so adding the lacquer finish helps bounce the light around. “Most people would think high-gloss cabinets are not kid-friendly, but they are,” says Jim. “The finish makes the cabinets incredibly durable, and you need only to wipe down the fronts to help the kitchen retain its beauty.”

“Homework station” and “sophisticated” are not words normally used together, but in this case they can be. Jim knew the four young children would need a place in the kitchen to do homework, which would require a lot of space and create a big mess. So Jim continued the kitchen cabinetry along the wall of windows on the other side of the island, which included desks. The tall, closed cabinetry stores supplies and artwork. He also made sure all fabrics used in the home were high performance for their longevity and durability.

Though this was a traditional home with sophisticated clients, Jim was given only two colors to work with in this kitchen—black and red. He used the two bold colors, creating a neutral look with the black, and allowing the red to be the mysterious and alluring feature. He softened the traditional, stark black-and-white look by using a pale blue and black, with blue undertones. The contrast between the two colors is not as great, which leaves a calmer palette. He then allowed the sliver of the red pantry exposed to the kitchen to shine. If you look in the opposite direction, the black-and-blue combo continues through to the living room and swirls around the yellow dining chairs in the center of the design, like the sun.

Resource:

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JIM DOVE
DOVE DESIGN STUDIO
"A BLACK KITCHEN THAT IS
ALL ABOUT COLOR"



Jim Dove has more than 25 years of experience creating architecturally inspired, award-winning kitchens, with top-of-the-line pieces in locations ranging from California to Italy. Recently, an architect referred him to a couple with four young children who were building a 1,200-square-foot addition to their older traditional home. The homeowners asked Jim Dove Design to plan and fabricate their kitchen and create a cohesive design for their addition that would encapsulate the kitchen, family room, mudroom and powder room. This is just the type of project Jim loves—and excels at. "I'm from an architecture background, so it's innate for me to take a broad, holistic approach to each project," he explains. "We're taught to look at the whole space and how the individual elements relate to one another." With a master's degree in architecture from UCLA, Jim spent the first part of his career working on residential architecture projects before he segued into kitchen design and cabinetry. He now owns design showrooms in Florida and New Jersey. Jim draws inspiration from his passion for art and architecture, and prides himself on being a professional communicator of the design process.

The owners of the Georgian colonial home, which is more than a century old, wanted their addition to be more in line with the history of the home without feeling old-fashioned. The challenge presented to Jim was to make the home elegant yet kid-friendly, beautiful yet durable—and to have a black kitchen and a red butler's pantry! Such bold choices would inhibit most designers, but Jim Dove Design never shies away from a challenge.