



MODERN TEXTURES

CATEGORY IS:
RESIDENTIAL KITCHEN OVER \$200,000

This kitchen renovation successfully transformed a 90's-era space into a sophisticated, modern hub. Meeting the client's core objectives, the design modernized the layout while creating an open, inviting atmosphere that maximizes views of the lake. The result is a design-forward kitchen where warm wood takes center stage, balanced by a neutral, sophisticated palette.

Functionality was significantly enhanced by re-working the floor plan to prioritize workflow and storage. The integration of state-of-the-art appliances and a dedicated pantry ensures seamless organization, while the use of FENIX cabinetry in hard working areas (stove area and pantry) introduces smart, practical technology with its fingerprint-resistant and self-healing properties.

Aesthetics are defined by warm wood tones, crisp, modern lines, and a dramatic 'black moment' at the stove area, creating a refined look with natural handcrafted textures such as the tadelakt plaster finish on the hood. The level of craftsmanship is exceptional, featuring grain-matched walnut veneer, custom-stained red oak that surprisingly does not fight the other wood throughout, and locally-made statement hammered metal hardware. Complex details like drywall returns with simplified extension jambs at the new windows and carefully placed equidistant sill outlets in tight quarters to meet code demonstrate a commitment to precision and clean, structural finishes.

Innovation was central to overcoming design obstacles. A custom 'Strutter' window allows for pass thru porch service, while still addressing extreme weather challenges with a complex installation. The kitchen maximizes utility in hard to reach storage through 'tap' down-lit storage in the modern hood's unused space, while handle-less cabinetry offers a clean yet easy-access design. Other clever touches include a specialized walk-thru pantry and a range hood engineered with hidden, accessible fasteners, ensuring maintenance does not compromise the design's clean lines. This project masterfully blends high-end aesthetics with thoughtful, innovative solutions, resulting in a kitchen that is both beautiful and highly functional.



CLIENT'S OBJECTIVES:

- Modernize
- Open up view to lake
- Warm & inviting
- Design forward

FUNCTIONALITY:

- Smart storage
- State of the art appliances
- Maximize floor plan
- Easy to keep clean

AESTHETICS:

- Neutral, warm palette
- Modern, crisp lines
- Open and inviting
- Sophistication at ease

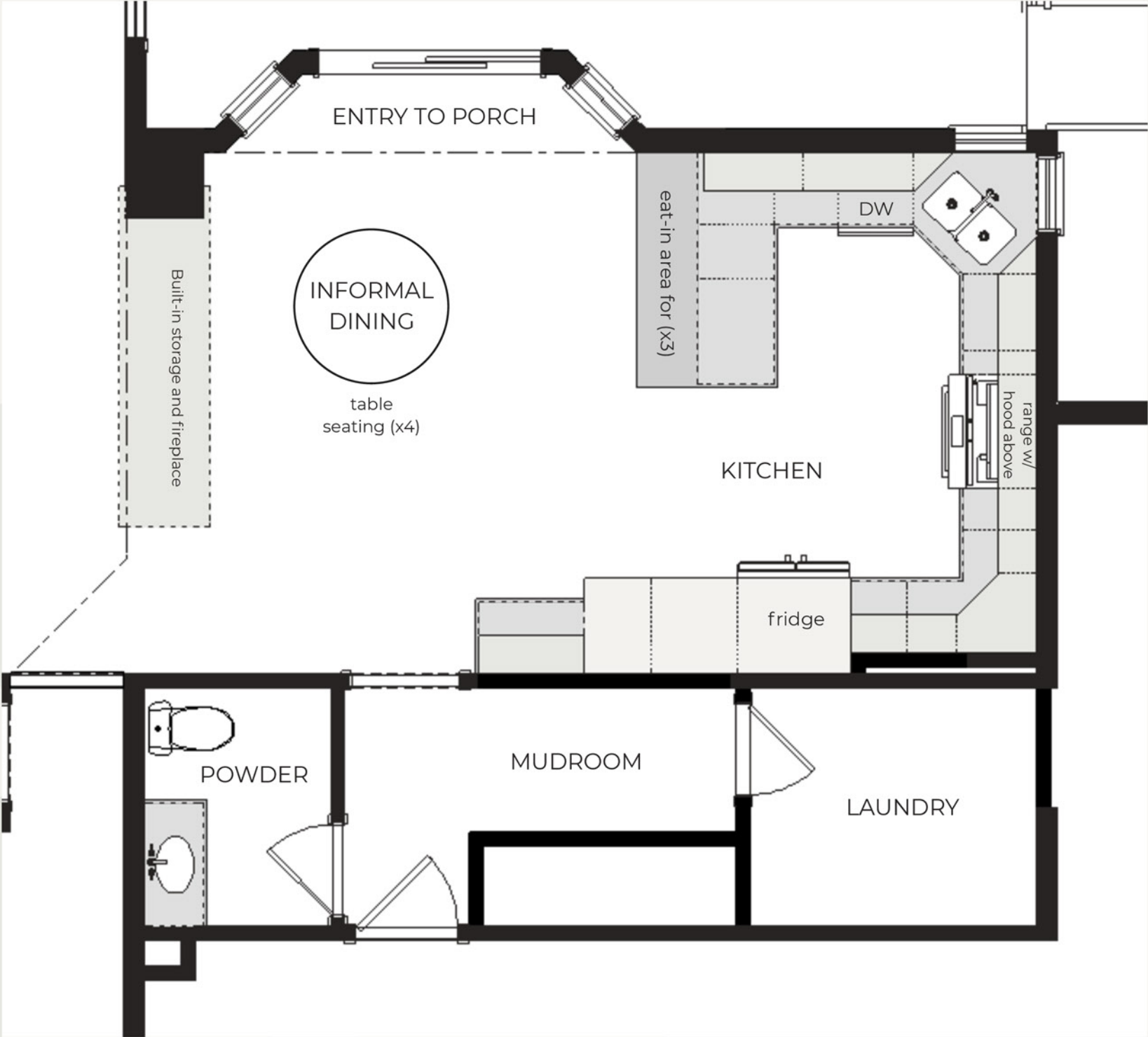
CRAFTSMANSHIP:

- Grain matched walnut veneer
- Island detailing
- Tadelakt stove hood finish
- Drywall return/extension jamb trim

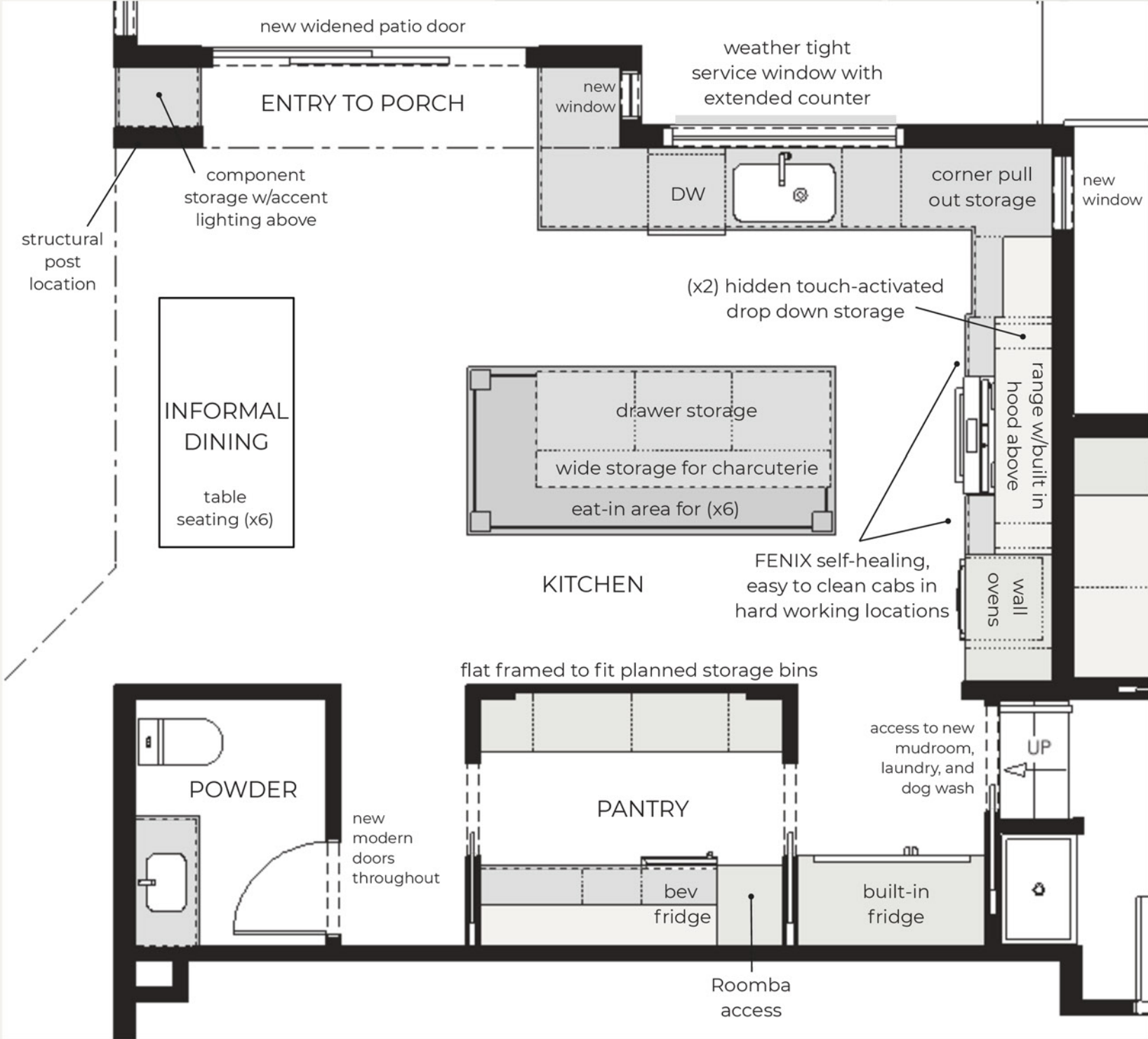
INNOVATION:

- MN weather meets Strutter window
- 'Tap' down lit storage at stove
- Look mom, no handles!
- Pantry cabinet allows for Rumba

PLAN TIME



BEFORE



AFTER

MEETING CLIENT OBJECTIVES

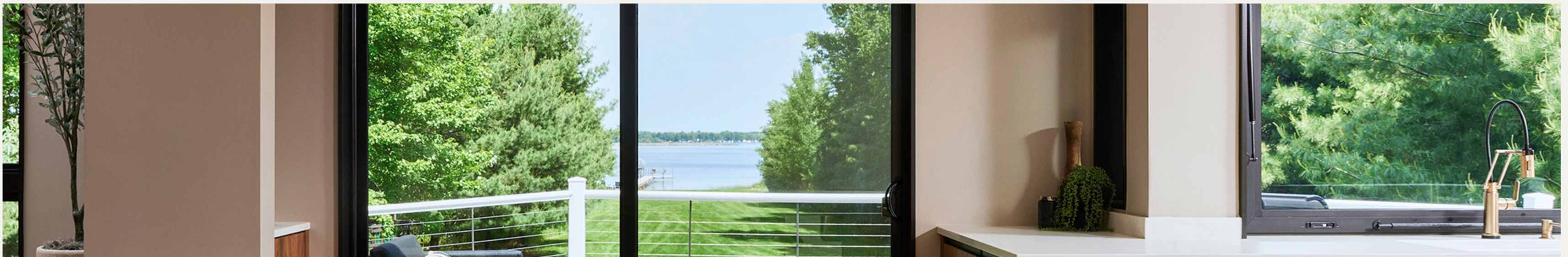
- Open up view to lake
- Modernize
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- Design forward

Lake views.

To fully honor the home's lakefront setting, heavy wall and tall cabinetry was removed along the exterior perimeter, opening up uninterrupted sightlines via an integrated service window. Replacing a dated bay window with a streamlined structural bump-out and large patio door created a fluid transition to the outdoors while dramatically expanding the view.

Modernize.

Modernizing the kitchen meant bringing cutting-edge utility into a streamlined footprint. The redesigned space features flush-integrated, premium appliances and precision-crafted, handle-less millwork. Architectural drywall returns and clean horizontal planes strip away visual noise, resulting in an uncluttered, sophisticated culinary environment.



Warm and inviting.

To create an atmosphere that feels inviting rather than clinical, rich walnut cabinetry and warm leather accents anchor the space, complemented by soft white countertops, earthy undertones, and warm brass.

Design forward.

Architectural drywall returns and concealed storage strip away visual clutter, allowing high performance design elements – like the articulated brass faucet and warm wood details – to act as functional art.



FUNCTIONALITY

- State of the art appliances
- Smart storage
- Re-work floor plan to maximize program
- Easy to keep clean

State of the art.

State-of-the-art appliances anchor the kitchen's efficiency, starring a focal Bertazzoni range and custom-paneled Sub-Zero refrigeration that preserve clean sightlines without compromising professional performance.

Smart.

Storage intelligence shines on both sides of the cooktop with touch-activated drop-downs - complete with integrated task lighting, which provides instant sleek access to essential cooking oils and spices.



Maximize.

Reconfiguring the layout unlocked vital work zones, transforming a constrained footprint into an expansive, highly intuitive culinary hub tailored for seamless preparation and social gathering.

Clean.

Modern practicality takes shape in a seamless solid-surface backsplash that wipes down effortlessly, shielding high-use areas while reinforcing clean, uninterrupted architectural lines.



AESTHETICS

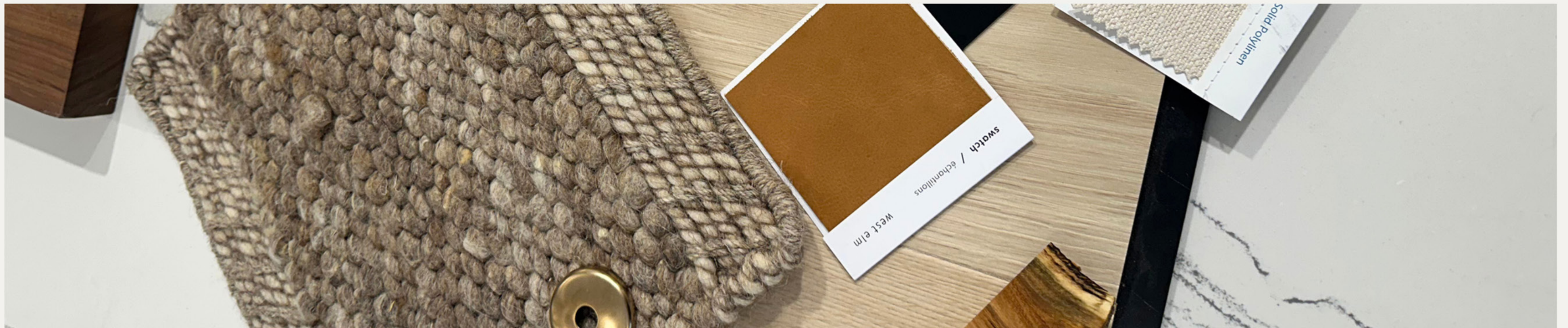
- Neutral, warm palette
- Modern, crisp lines
- Open and inviting
- Sophistication at ease

Neutral, warm.

Organic walnut hues, rich cognac accents, and soft neutral surfaces create a grounding color scheme, infusing the modern space with natural warmth and subtle visual depth.

Modern.

Razor-sharp millwork transitions, handle-less fronts, and continuous horizontal planes establish a clean, uncluttered geometry that defines the kitchen's contemporary architectural profile.



Open.

An expansive layout paired with unobstructed sightlines connects work zones effortlessly to the outdoors, welcoming light and encouraging casual gather-around social connection.

Sophisticated.

From screwless plate covers and sill outlets to seamless, virtually invisible HVAC grilles, refined luxury resides in quiet details that work effortlessly behind the scenes.



CRAFTSMANSHIP

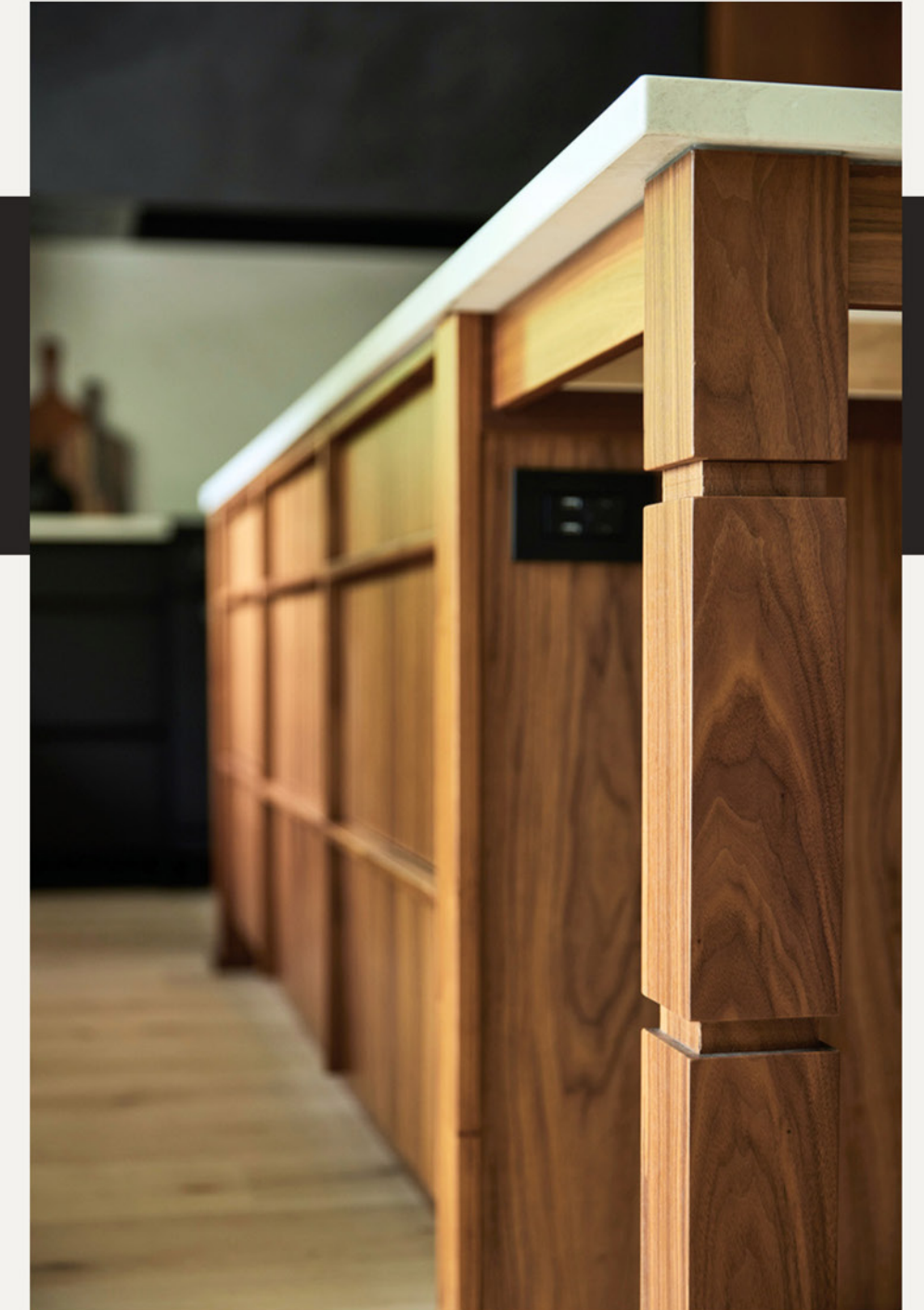
- Grain matched walnut veneer
- Island detailing delight
- Tadelakt stove hood finish
- Drywall return/extension jamb trim
- Hand-hammered local appliance pulls

Grain match.

Precision-cut walnut veneers feature continuous, grain-matched flow across all door and drawer fronts, elevating custom millwork into a seamless, uninterrupted expanse of rich natural wood.

Island delight.

Artfully engineered joinery defines the center island, inspired by the celebration of linear design elements, has subtle in and out reveal details, and plenty of integrated seating that come together to form a commanding, tactile focal point



Tadelakt.

Hand-troweled black tadelakt plaster wraps the custom stove hood, offering an artisan, lime-based finish that introduces rich organic texture and subtle matte contrast above the range.

Hand hammered.

Custom hand-hammered hardware crafted by local artisans adds bespoke, tactile luxury to integrated appliance fronts, bridging modern architectural lines with authentic, handcrafted character.

Trim simplified.

Replacing bulky traditional casing, clean drywall returns and extension jambs frame openings with minimalist precision, streamlining transitions and reinforcing the home's contemporary aesthetic.



INNOVATION

- Clever storage
- MN weather meets service window
- Look mom, no handles!
- Pantry cabinet allows for Rumba

Clever storage.

Concealed within the hood enclosure, a touch-activated drop-down unit with integrated task lighting lowers effortlessly, keeping cooking oils and spices right at your fingertips

Weather resilient.

Engineered to withstand Minnesota's extreme seasonal shifts, this pass-through window creates an effortless indoor-outdoor serving bar without compromising energy efficiency or climate seals when closed.



Seamless.

Eliminating visual clutter, touch-latch mechanisms and integrated channel pulls create a sleek, handle-free expanse across custom millwork, maintaining architectural purity and tactile ease of use.



Hidden task masters.

Smart utility hides in plain sight inside the pantry, featuring a dedicated dock for the robotic vacuum with a raised bottom shelf for easy bin access and maintenance.



BEFORE & AFTER

Removing visual clutter and heavy cabinetry transformed a cramped, dated kitchen into an expansive, light-filled architectural masterpiece that embraces panoramic views and connects fluidly with the outdoors.



BEFORE



AFTER

BEFORE & AFTER

The stove wall evolved from basic builder-grade cabinetry into a striking focal point, while the former peninsula makes way for a massive island filled with storage on both long sides and plenty of seating for large family gatherings.



BEFORE



AFTER

BEFORE & AFTER

Replacing a dated bay window with expansive multi-slide patio doors opened continuous sightlines to the lake, establishing a fluid indoor-outdoor connection for alfresco dining and entertaining.



BEFORE



AFTER

BEFORE & AFTER

Eliminating upper wall cabinetry and reorienting fenestration toward the lake transformed once-enclosed prep zones into an open, light-filled linear layout that unifies sightlines across the main level.



BEFORE



AFTER

BEFORE & AFTER

Removing a heavy central fireplace and bulky storage partition eliminated structural visual barriers, allowing the expansive main floor to breathe and flow as a cohesive, harmonious whole.



BEFORE



AFTER



FIN.

This transformation bridges modern culinary precision with the soul of an inviting, lakefront retreat.

Strategic spatial re-engineering and a curated tactile palette dissolved visual barriers to reconnect the interior with the outdoors. Every detail now serves a dual purpose: quiet luxury for quiet mornings, and seamless capability for gathering together.

