

MANHATTAN TRANSFER

YOUNG COUPLE BRINGS A SLICE OF THE BIG APPLE TO DC

WRITTEN BY **TRISH DONNALLY** | PHOTOGRAPHS BY **MORGAN HOWARTH**

What do a couple of homesick New York City transplants do when they move to Georgetown and set up house in a long-neglected brownstone? Joshua and Lianne Holzer brought an urban attitude, an approach that made their renovation affordable, and authentic souvenirs from the city they love.

Joshua and Lianne Holzer, pictured opposite, transformed their kitchen. The aluminum sculpture, *Niagara*, is by Joan Konkel, Wassily chairs by Marcel Breuer, cabinetry by IKEA, sculpture above the fireplace by Sergio Furnari, pendant lights from Restoration Hardware. The New York subway sign is from www.mta.info.





Photographs by Bob Narod

While the Holzlers made some decisions based on budget, they followed most of Zapatka’s recommendations. Looking at the wooden lintels above the kitchen windows, for instance, Joshua says, “I would never have left the eyebrows exposed. But Christian said, ‘Yes,’ and he was right. They look great.” Zapatka also replaced the windows with single panes of glass and black clad casings that give them an urban edge, exactly what the Holzlers like. Plus, Zapatka designed distinctive 9”-high baseboards with a stepped profile by simply assembling stock pieces of finished lumber.

Lianne researched appliances extensively before buying a stainless steel Viking stove, Bosch dishwasher, and GE Profile refrigerator. “I’m a *Consumer Reports* freak,” she says. She was also resourceful when it came to finding just the right accents.

“Lianne got it into her mind that she wanted a subway sign, which the MTA [Metropolitan Transportation Authority] sells online, but she didn’t like any of the ones they had. So she kept talking to the guy for an hour, saying, ‘I want a sign from a cool station,’ until he finally said, ‘We do have one in the back room that just came in from Times Square.’ ” So Lianne got her coveted, “cool” New York subway sign.

The sculpture above the mantle, inspired by a famous 1932 photo by Lewis Hine, has a story, too. Sergio Furnari,

the artist, used to sell his sculptures in SoHo off the back of his 1948 Dodge sedan. But his car collected so many tickets it was finally towed. When Furnari was worried that his car would be sold at auction, Joshua made a few phone calls and helped him get it back. In return, Furnari gave the Holzlers a sculpture.

Everything in the kitchen is well considered, including bookends that look like the Brooklyn Bridge and framed, sepia-tone photographs of the famous span. “We spend so much time in here,” Joshua says. Adds Lianne, “We have people over all the time. We wanted it to be livable.” It’s their home away from home. **ws**



Interior Walls
Benjamin Moore
Revere Pewter, flat
HC-172*



Interior Trim
Benjamin Moore
Platinum Gray
semi-gloss
EXT. RM



Exterior Walls
Benjamin Moore
Baby Seal Black
2119-30*



Countertops
Soapstone

*Colors shown may not be exact. Visit benjaminmoore.com for more information.

Before buying their c. 1885 neo-Romanesque rowhouse, the savvy homeowners asked Christian Zapatka, principal of Christian Zapatka Design LLC, to walk through the house with them. While Zapatka eventually renovated the whole house – replacing bathrooms, stripping doors and floors and re-staining them, plus adding fresh coats of paint throughout – the biggest challenge was the kitchen. “There were 10 layers of linoleum,” Joshua, 33, an attorney who specializes in internal investigations and anti-corruption, recalls.

On his initial tour of the kitchen, Zapatka noticed a brick arch behind some old cabinets on a wall. “Christian said, ‘There’s a fireplace back there.’ I said, ‘No,’ and he said, ‘Yeah,’” Joshua says. Sure enough, after gutting the kitchen, the Holzlers discovered an original brick fireplace that had been filled in and forgotten. Zapatka opened the fireplace, converted it to gas, and emphasized the exposed brick.

Exciting Expansion

He also expanded the kitchen to the rear of the house to replace a grimy, greenhouse structure that had jutted off the small kitchen into the backyard. “It was a McRoom in the

back. It looked just like a fast-food restaurant,” says Lianne Holzer, 34, an executive recruiter at Rurak & Associates.

The new addition Zapatka designed faces south into a relatively deep garden and doubles the size of the kitchen. Plus, it feels like an art gallery graced with *Niagara*, a fluid aluminum sculpture by Georgetown artist Joan Konkel, and two Wassily chairs by Marcel Breuer.

“Christian’s got such great taste. He has great vision,” Lianne says. The Holzlers tailored Zapatka’s suggestions to fit their budget. As Joshua says, when it came time to select cabinetry, “I said, ‘Hey Christian, we’re using IKEA, get comfortable with it.’ ”

“When Josh announced he had purchased IKEA cabinetry, I ran to the hardware store,” says Zapatka, smiling. He bought modern brushed stainless steel hardware “to give the cabinetry some heft.” When Zapatka suggested designer ceramic tiles for the radiant heated floors, Joshua went directly to the manufacturer and bought them for a fraction of the price. “I said, ‘Christian, I just ordered ceramic tiles, I hope you like the color,’ ” Joshua recalls. Instead of honed black granite for the countertops, Lianne went to a quarry and selected smoky gray soapstone.

The addition doubles the size of the Holzer kitchen and blends the inside and outside with large windows and doors.

OPPOSITE: The new addition connects to the garden.

RESOURCES

■ **Christian Zapatka Design LLC**
202.333.2735

■ **Edison Hernandez**
301.326.3333

■ **Joan Konkel**
202.342.2277
joankonkel.com

■ **M.E.M. Marble & Granite**
301.568.7200

■ **Victor Salazar**
240.398.4002

