

To brighten up a windowless kitchen space, designer Elana Rudiger chose a mirrored backsplash and hood that reflect the dining area and library beyond, giving the cook a great view, too.



Custom hardware from Rockport, Maine-based marine-industry manufacturer Lowe Hardware adds a layer of sophistication.

## HIDDEN JOYS

**For a family of five with young children,** a hyper-functional kitchen in their newly constructed Cambridge, Massachusetts, house was a must. At the end of a long, open-plan area that includes a dining room and library, the kitchen needed to act as a family hub. “We thought a lot about how we would use this space,” says Elana Rudiger of Elana Rudiger Interior Design. “The

kitchen really informed everything behind it.” One challenge, however, was bringing light into the room, which features walnut cabinetry but no windows to the outside. To capture as much light as possible from other parts of the house, Rudiger installed a mirrored hood and backsplash and honed white Silestone countertops; the latter material was also installed on one wall, this time



A subtle panel reveals a sliding spice rack tucked in a corner.

By installing a glass transom in one wall, Rudiger captured borrowed light from the family room's floor-to-ceiling windows.

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—INTERIOR DESIGNER  
ELANA RUDIGER

with a polished surface for a subtle textural change. A glass transom between the kitchen and family room helps, too. The design team also found clever ways to carve out additional hidden features, such as a work surface that pulls out of a wall and connects to the island. A nearby banquette creates extra seating; a secret pocket door turns it into a cozy alcove.

**WHAT YOU DON'T SEE**

A countertop surface pulls out of a cabinet wall and connects to the island via a clever hook and cleat. It also serves to cordon off the work space when entertaining. Rudiger added overflow seating with a banquette; a pocket door tucked behind it slides out and swivels to turn the space into a cozy alcove. A television above the seat folds down for easy viewing.



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