



A traditional yet airy kitchen designed by Casa Verde. (BELOW) The contemporary kitchen created by UUDesigns for the O'Neal family.

room wall was removed, opening up the original space. For dual functionality, a partition rolls across the countertop, closing off the kitchen from the dining area for dinner parties. Made of wood-veneered panels, green 3form translucent panels and aluminum, the doors and panels are reminiscent of a Mondrian painting. The custom cabinetry, by Steven Cabinets, has smart functional features including a pantry drawer, a dog food storage drawer and a drawer to house a garbage container. Wide roll-out open shelves are housed behind cabinet doors, providing additional easy storage access.

As in the O'Neal home, Sweitzer sees more clients seeking energy-conserving appliances, water-conserving plumbing fixtures and energy-efficient lighting, including space planning that allows for well-placed and controlled daylight to be the primary means of lighting. Look for aesthetically pleasing and environmentally friendly solutions like surface finishes with recycled material content—including glass, plastics, ceramics or metals. Stainless steel remains a favorite for reflective surface treatments like backsplashes and appliances. //



**KITCHEN TIPS:** Consider vertical surfaces first: When you walk into a space, it's the first thing you notice. Take into account their surface color, texture and detailing. Then focus on the floor material and patterns (the second surfaces you notice).  
—Jeff Sweitzer

Choose integrated appliances that fit and blend into the design of the cabinetry.  
—Rosemary Merrill

Since the kitchen and bath are the two most expensive (per square foot) areas in your home to remodel, talk with a professional to get some experienced perspective. Share a little of your family dynamic, such as "we are an all-out Edina sports family." If you have books, photos or existing drawings of the areas to be remodeled, they are also helpful.  
—Jeff Sweitzer

## Our Panel of Experts

### INDOORS

Rosemary Merrill  
partner at Casa Verde Design

Jeff Sweitzer  
AIA CID,  
principal of UUDesign LLC

Chris Walgren  
president of Christus Haus

### OUTDOORS

Brian Meyers  
president and owner of Oak Meadows Landscape Design

Tom Miller  
JLM Design Build