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Better living.

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NEW LOOK NEW FEATURES

HOME RENO
Opening up a compact kitchen

15 COSY BEDROOM IDEAS

CALM HOME, CALM MIND
Easy ways to declutter

Garden Party
An elegant space for entertaining guests

HOMES WITH VIEWS TO BUY FOR

HOW TO...
Start your own, green indoor oasis

Kitchen confidential

How an awkward, hexagonal-shaped space in a Palm Jumeirah apartment was transformed into a beautiful yet functional kitchen

THE SANDBLASTED GLASS PANEL MAXIMISES THE NATURAL LIGHT, WHILE MAINTAINING PRIVACY AND KEEPS COOKING SMELLS AWAY FROM THE REST OF THE APARTMENT

THE VERDICT

"We absolutely love our new kitchen. It's minimalist in aesthetic, yet warm and inviting with plenty of storage space"
– the Sidani family

When Dina Sidani and her family bought their three-bedroom apartment on Golden Mile, Palm Jumeirah last year, they called on Nisrine El Lababidi of Harf Noon Design Studio to renovate it. "The original kitchen was dark and outdated," Dina reveals. "So we wanted a fresh, modern space with a better layout for my family's needs and we had the perfect chance to do this prior to moving in."

"The brief was to remove all of the original cabinetry (but to reinstall some of them in the pantry for increased storage), remove the tiles entirely, retile, design the layout of the kitchen to best fit their daily use with a coffee corner, a bigger oven space and a small breakfast corner," Nisrine reveals. "It also needed to be well lit and to make use of each and every possible storage option." Nisrine and the couple chose to work with German kitchen company Kaiser due to their high quality yet affordable and customised approach. The space presented a challenge due to its hexagonal shape so the team ensured every corner is utilised, with the clean look benefiting from details such as modern stainless steel handles and Miele appliances.

TIME TAKEN: 10 DAYS

Before
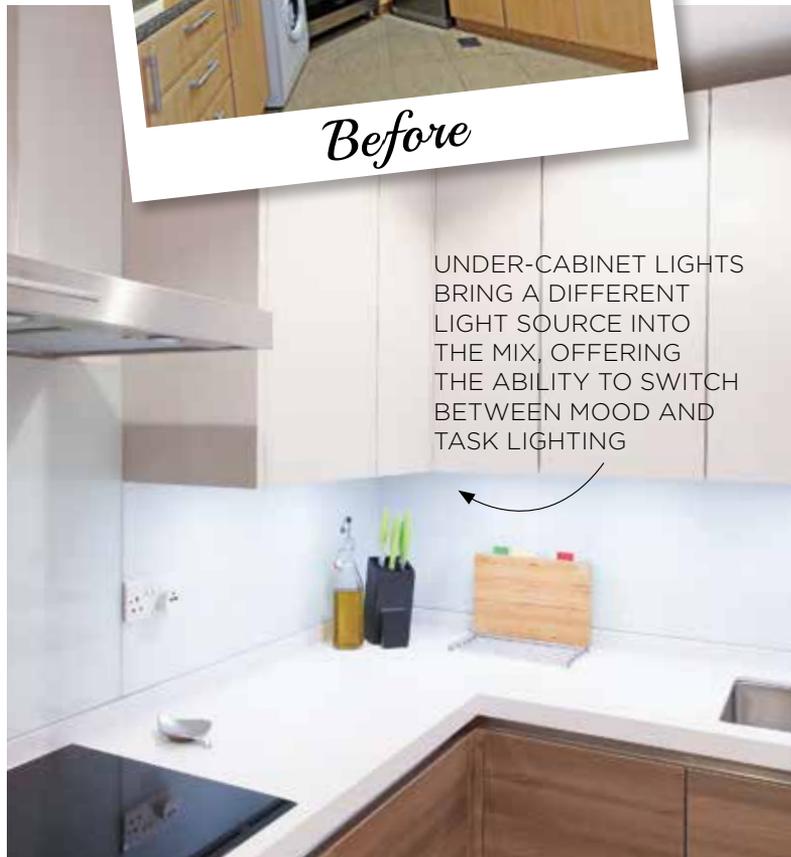
UNDER-CABINET LIGHTS BRING A DIFFERENT LIGHT SOURCE INTO THE MIX, OFFERING THE ABILITY TO SWITCH BETWEEN MOOD AND TASK LIGHTING

A handy how-to

Want your own sleek kitchen? Nisrine El Lababidi takes us through the steps to installing a new one:

1 Choose the company that will supply your kitchen and design it with them.
2 Once you have ordered your materials, calculate at least three weeks, which can extend to six to eight weeks if you are ordering outside the UAE.
3 Choose your contractor and apply for the permissions and approvals from the developer. Expect two weeks, sometimes longer if there are any paperwork and design issues.
4 During this period of time, call in the contractor who will remove the existing tiles, retile your floors and walls and install your lighting connections.
5 Steel yourself for the messiest part of the project: removing tiles.
6 During this period, you will need to purchase the tiles that fit your new kitchen design scheme, as well as any new appliances and suspended lighting.
7 From there, it's a smooth process. The kitchen can be installed within a couple of days and appliances delivered thereafter. The made-to-measure countertops will be the last to arrive.

"I ask every client to prioritise what they need and how they use the kitchen. This helps us to make sure that the kitchen is functional as well as beautiful," says Tarek

Create a seamless look

GO WHITE: There's no doubt that this perennial favourite helps to create a sleek, modern look. Go for streamlined cabinets with minimal colour and a clean design. Use the same material on your countertops as your backsplash, all the way from the counter to the bottom of your cabinets and hood.
ENSURE EVERYTHING HAS ITS PLACE : If you are a coffee connoisseur, design a coffee station. If you enjoy baking and do it often, design a space for your

materials and pans.
Drawers can be specified in any width and height and don't overlook internal drawers, which can be stacked vertically in a tall cabinet for food storage.
USE DRAWER AND CABINET INSERTS: These can be used to organise utensils, knives, boards, spices and oils near the food preparation area.
MAKE RUBBISH DISPOSAL FAST AND EFFICIENT: Choose ones designed to be pushed open with an elbow or knee when your hands are full.

THE BREAKFAST AREA IS SMALL AND EFFICIENT