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SUBTLE SOPHISTICATION IN LINCOLN PARK

The challenge facing Tere Bresin of Beret Design Group in Upper Montclair was to fashion an upscale, contemporary kitchen in a center hall colonial for a pair of accomplished artists in Lincoln Park. Bold shapes balanced by light touches are the key to this exquisitely designed space.

The owners opted to convert their isolated kitchen into a flexible loft-like space perfect for cocktail parties and buffet entertaining. The space was given a fascinating rhythm by varying the height of the granite countertops and the length of the cherry cabinets, emphasizing their vertical lines. Focused pools of light and cylindrical pendants reinforce the visual variety. The room feels open and airy while satisfying the clients' request for maximum storage.

Juxtaposing the many verticals, a moon-like ceiling fixture floats above a round table made of charcoal Corian that has the "downtown" look of poured concrete. The ergonomic plywood chairs from Donghia add urban flair, their bent steel legs echoing the slender curves of brushed nickel on every cabinet door.

The color palette remains muted and subtle: a recessive Swedish blue washes the island while specially fabricated silk glass, the color of the sea sandwiched between its panes, is used for the backsplash and counter doors. The acid-etched finish of silk glass diffuses light instead of harshly reflecting it. The practical matte surface resists both fingerprints and scratches.

