



Combining custom with cost-effective

Architect Felix Gonzalez and his team designed this elegant multipurpose island. The mahogany-veneered unit provides flexible storage and seating for both the kitchen and living room. The original island plan was much simpler: a desk and an area to house the bar stools on the living room side, with room for a convection and microwave oven on the kitchen side. But as the client's requirements grew to include an appliance garage and additional storage areas, the design team rethought the piece to give them everything on their wish list, including a variety of compartmentalized areas in which to store wine and other bar-related items. On the kitchen side, the area behind the bar stools has a shallow base cabinet with drawers. There is also a drawer under the convection oven and a display shelf at the top similar to the one facing the living area. The seating area features a black-granite waterfall countertop with a leather finish. The white base cabinets around the perimeter of the kitchen are from Ikea—a cost-saving feature that allowed the homeowners to splurge on the island/room divider.

PROJECT ARCHITECT Felix Gonzalez, Wiedemann Architects, Bethesda, Md., wiedemannarchitects.com

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PHOTOS Anice Hoachlander, hdphoto.com



At your disposal

Photographer Ken Gutmaker shot this elegant kitchen counter in one of the showrooms at the San Francisco Design Center. Incorporated into the cutting-board counter is a very useful feature—a slot for food scraps. Compostable items can be swept right from the cutting board into a removable bin below the counter. An attractive lid keeps utensils from accidentally dropping down into the bin and odors from coming back up.