



PHOTO: JOHN GRANEN.

## SUNNY OUTLOOK KITCHEN & DINING AREA

INSPIRED BY ITS OUTDOOR ELEMENTS, DESIGNER SUSAN MARINELLO ORIENTS A ROOM TO OVERLOOK A ROCKERY OF SLOPED GARDENS.

### Your design interpretation seems so harmonious with the outdoors.

The jumping-off point for most of my projects is the view. This space has such a gorgeous lake view to one side and an outdoor terrace overlooking a garden on the other. Opening up the home with large windows all around was an important aspect of the design. We wanted this room to be in direct connection with the outdoors and the exterior beyond, offering up a prime example of how interiors can be cohesive with the outside.

### Tell me about the mix of seating at the table.

We liked the idea of anchoring the two ends of the table with strong host and hostess chairs. Also, using a bench, upholstered in gorgeous, creamy Napa silk-leather from Moore & Giles, was a way to minimize the number of legs and ground the outside edge of the table with a simple seating solution. Plus, everyone really likes to get cozy and this allows for two or even three to dine on this side.

### Why did a minimalist approach work best for this project?

Minimalism allowed for the exterior and interior to be one. The clients wanted soft, simple colors so they could see the ever-changing seasons without distraction. We forwent draperies because they would have been too distracting from the contemporary and clean architecture; plus, it lets more of the ethereal natural light in, allowing the room to breathe. Without question, this space feels quiet, restful, restorative and calm.

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