



PHOTO: ©NICK WHEELER/WHEELER PHOTOGRAPHICS 1999

DETAILS

Maple Sheath

How does a designer update a contemporary house built in 1958 and retain its unique feel? In this case, architect Gary Wolf designed a maple wall system that runs throughout the house and gives the interior space continuity. Construction manager William Foley built the system both as a freestanding partition and as a paneled layer attached to an existing wall. It's fabricated from 4-by-8-foot sheets of clear-finished maple veneer plywood, applied in a horizontal running-bond pattern with 1/8-inch joints.

The house had previously been renovated in a style that didn't fit the original plan, so the owners wanted to reincarnate its contemporary spirit. The maple walls capture the right feel and act as a versatile back-

drop. In addition, they work well with a variety of decorative elements such as the new living room fireplace, curved frosted-glass wall sconces, paintings, a cantilevered stone shelf, and the colorful bathroom tile and slate vanity top.

The wall system and matching cabinetry add dimension to the house while black granite accents provide a necessary contrast to the light maple panels. And, because boundaries are blurred by the continuity of the maple panels, the slate floors help define the rooms.

Category: Details

Location: Weston, Mass.

Entrant: Gary Wolf, AIA, Gary Wolf Architects, Boston

Contractor: William Foley, Construction Management & Development, Wellesley, Mass.

Designer: Gary Wolf, AIA, Gary Wolf Architects

ACCESSIBLE DESIGN

Easy Maneuver

Couple two demanding clients with demanding needs and you have, well, a demanding job. But what if both homeowners are wheelchair-bound and enjoy cooking and entertaining in the kitchen at the same time? And what if they don't want a makeover that screams accessible design? Then, according to designer Barry LaGrange, you have an extremely challenging project. One judge said, "It's one that most remodelers don't understand."

With eight wheels, not four legs, navigating the 297-square-foot kitchen remodel/design team had to deal with

Before

