



“When we were in Japan,” says Kirk Chao, “Yuki started watching those American remodeling shows on the Home & Garden network,” referring to the two years his wife’s work relocated the couple and their daughter, Sydney, now 10, to a modern apartment in Tokyo. It was there, in the city of her birth, that Yuki started dreaming about how they could translate that look in their Cambridge, Massachusetts, condominium. Due to a reality show’s warped sense of time, however, where a yearlong project might be truncated to a few shows, Yuki thought that renovating a kitchen and three bathrooms could be done in a matter of weeks. So when she realized they would be back in Cambridge but renting a furnished apartment for two months while they waited for their furniture to arrive by slow boat from Japan, she was on it. “Plenty of time for a renovation!” she says with a laugh.

To hit the ground running, they contacted Carter Williams of LDa Architecture & Interiors in Cambridge while still abroad. The Chaos had liked what Williams had done with a neighbor’s kitchen and made an appointment to meet with her the day their plane landed. It was at that jet-lagged meeting in July of 2013

THE SINK, WITH a distinctive faucet by Dornbracht, and a Miele cooktop fit neatly in the space between the windows. The dishwasher is to the right of the sink and is finished in veneer to blend with the rest of the cabinetry. In contrast, white Miele ovens (LEFT) are incorporated into the island’s design. The floor-to-ceiling pantry is purposely shallow to allow for more floor space and make items stored within easier to find.



KITCHEN + BATH

ARCHITECTURE
LDA ARCHITECTURE & INTERIORS

CUSTOM LIGHTING FROM Casa Design Boston adds fun and sparkle to the Japan-inspired kitchen. The frosted-glass wall units are similar to the cabinets the owners had in their Tokyo apartment.



Conquering Reality

A family learns that dream renovations take planning and time — and are totally worth the effort

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