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Photos: Peter Lyons Photography

**DIANE RAMSEY, PROPRIETOR/
DESIGN DIRECTOR
SHEER DESIGN GROUP — SAN RAFAEL, CA**
Neolith Iron Copper (peninsula, perimeter)

The Neolith Iron Copper sintered stone used for the island and perimeter countertops serves as the ideal harmonizer to marry the mahogany accents and painted cabinetry with the tile floor in the renovation of this (Joseph) Eichler home's kitchen.

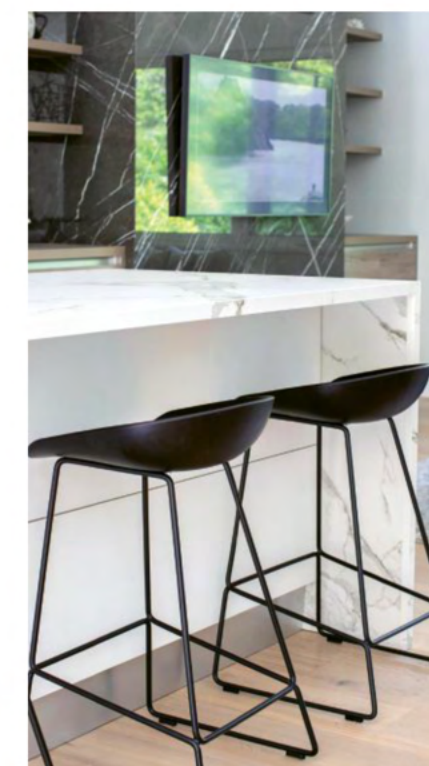
"Mahogany is an original Eichler finish material, and we often integrate this material into these renovations," Ramsey points out, noting a widespread affinity towards the post-WWII architect's homes, which are highly coveted and prevalent in communities throughout California. "We utilized the wood in the kitchen and surrounding rooms as an accent on the walls, the peninsula and the custom niche. We also added a bit of urban appeal with the navy blue cabinetry, and we needed something to tie the wood and cabinetry with the gray floor. The weathered, industrial look of this Iron Copper, with its burnt orange coloration and natural variations, was the perfect choice," she stresses.

Ramsey credits her clients with encouraging her to research its use, indicating that her initial introduction to the material was tainted by a fabricator who was not experienced with it.

"My clients fell in love with the material when they saw it in a local showroom," she says. "It does require special tools and certification to properly fabricate and install it, but because of its manufacturing process, it is extremely dense so it is non-porous and resistant to stains. My clients love it and it looks beautiful in the space."



Photos: Hasler Homes (photographer: Jans Nicolson)



**GREG HASLER, OWNER
HASLER HOMES — NORTH VANCOUVER, BC, CANADA**
Cosentino Dekton Aura (island/perimeter)

With a desire for an open floor plan with good flow throughout, the kitchen in this renovation serves as a hub between the family room, which features a focal-point marble slab façade, and the outdoor living space with smoker, barbecue and fridge that is conveniently accessed via bi-fold doors.

At the kitchen's heart is the large island fabricated from 2cm Dekton Aura from Cosentino, which sits atop cabinetry from Pacific Rim Cabinets. To emphasize the sintered stone's presence, Hasler also used the material as a countertop-to-ceiling back-splash behind the ventilation hood.

Aesthetically, the material is inspired by Calacatta and Carrara marbles to provide a natural stone look that Hasler



further showcased with waterfall edges that flow dramatically from the work surface to the floor. While it incorporates veins reminiscent of natural stone, the pattern is relatively 'quiet' to maintain a desired 'clean' look.

Functionally, the material is resistant to heat, fire, abrasions, scratches, stains and freezing, making it an ideal material for kitchens, he notes.

"Our clients are a young, busy family that likes to entertain, so it was important for them to have a big island for cooking and entertaining with their children and guests," he says. "They also needed something durable that could withstand daily use without getting beat up."