



Avenue Loft

PORTLAND, OREGON

JESSICA HELGERSON INTERIOR DESIGN

This home is in a converted early twentieth-century warehouse and manufacturing facility that was made into condos in the 1990s. The original conversion left a very modest 870 square-foot space that was very divided. The new owners wanted an open space where they would feel compelled to cook and entertain. Jessica Helgerson took on the project with the goal of creating a warm and sophisticated home taking into consideration the context of the old building. The choice of glazed brick rather than traditional tile ties beautifully to the original building materials and the industrial purpose for which the structure was built. In the window above you can see a bit of the original brick lining the sill. The integration of the hood into the wall by covering it with the same glazed brick makes the whole kitchen feel solid and connected to the actual architecture of the building. Additionally, the neutral color palette still allows for contrast and richness in the design, creating an inspired space in which to spend time cooking.





Vintage House

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This kitchen and dining room provide a wonderful example of how white tile is used to create a warm, cozy space. Lining the walls from floor-to-ceiling, the tiled areas include corners for verdant plants and cushioned sofas, resulting in a mix of textures, hard and soft. Tile gives the room solidity, framing the windows and the view outside, while the tiles' white glaze reflects exterior light, both soft and bright, which creates an open, light feel in a formerly dark space. Tiles placed around doorways give the openings strength and structure and contribute to a kitchen and dining area that double as a sanctuary. The alcove framing the range is particularly stunning, with custom trim finishing the opening, a deliberate and decorative choice that completes the space.



White Brick House

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JESSICA HELGERSON INTERIOR DESIGN

This project, a 1920s Mediterranean-style home built of white brick, opened up the kitchen to create a more spacious feel and connect it with the rest of the home. You may not first notice that every bit of the wall, including the archway between the dining room and kitchen, is tiled. It's a subtle use of material, because being in the space one may feel the materiality before seeing the tile. The tile on these surfaces is a pretty simple glossy white. It wouldn't feel out of place in a classic kitchen, yet it introduces an element of surprise because of how extensively and consistently it's used throughout the space. This commitment to the material also helps maintain the strong identity of the kitchen, despite the open floor plan. The surfaces where one is used to seeing tile, like behind a sink in a kitchen, blend right into places where it's less commonly seen, like all the way up to the ceiling and above and around the window. The surface of the tile is not perfectly flat so one feels the materiality, and this is a huge part of the feeling of the space. The graphic tile on the floor lends itself equally to a classic kitchen feel, while serving as a foil for the white tile on the walls. It catches your attention first and lets the subtle tonality of the tiled walls surprise and delight you even more.



