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ARCHITECTURAL RECORD



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Kitchen and Bath Review: Habitat 67 Condo Kitchen

bulthaup Toronto — Antje Bulthaup

Montreal

Our annual review of kitchen and bath design includes a Manhattan apartment finished in local materials, a challenging kitchen renovation in Montreal’s Habitat 67, and a land-worthy kitchen and master bath for a private yacht.

By Rita Catinella Orrell

The 354 stacked and interlocking concrete modules of Moshe Safdie’s landmark Habitat 67 housing project in Montreal have transformed it into a Mid-Century modern icon. Built for approximately \$14 million U.S., the 238,000-square-foot project is a permanent symbol of the successful Expo 67 world’s fair.



For two businessmen who divide their time between New York and Montreal, living at Habitat 67 is part of an overall lifestyle; they collect Expo 67 souvenirs, and most of their furnishings and art are Mid-Century. When they purchased their condo in 2010, it had been stripped to its concrete shell for a renovation the previous residents had abandoned. “We always envisaged taking on a completely ‘modern’ renovation regardless of the property we found,” says owner Byron Peart. Working with architects Antje Bulthaup and Richard Keyes (of kitchen systems supplier bulthaup Toronto) and interior designer Maria di Ioia, the owners wanted to restore and preserve any original features of the historic building, including niches in the walls, exposed concrete ceilings, pocket doors, and in-wall cabinet overhead lighting.

The center of the apartment (made of three interlocked cubes of 624 square feet each) is a white laminate kitchen system in a double-height space that connects to an upstairs living room. A kitchen counter floats in front of a floor-to-ceiling window with views of the Saint Lawrence River and Montreal’s old port. Under the reinstated concrete ceiling, a floating passerelle of slatted European white oak gives access to a feature wall of books in the second-level living space. Combined with the stairwell, it frames the kitchen, and its slatted floor filters light from the windows above.

Respecting Safdie’s design and working within the constraints of a heritage building posed some challenges. “Due to the stacked nature of the cubes, the plumbing and exhaust was an issue, as it was not possible to feed them under the floor,” says Bulthaup. “This dictated that the sink and the fridge needed to be against the wall and that the air extractor had to be integrated into the island and then ducted through a raised floor.” For Peart and his partner, it was just part of the process. “One of the greatest attributes of Habitat 67 is that each homeowner can truly make it his own.”

PEOPLE & PRODUCTS

- **Architect:** bulthaup Toronto — Antje Bulthaup
- **Pendant Lighting:** Tom Dixon

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