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# Green, Clean and Personal

BY SALLY STICH  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY J. CURTIS

**DESIGN GOAL:** The primary goal of this Boulder kitchen was to mix state-of-the-art green technology with the family's aesthetic vision—sleek, but not impersonal. Designer Eiko Okura worked with Red Pepper Kitchen + Bath to create a compact kitchen (relative to the rest of the home's spaces) that met requirements for energy efficiency and used an array of eco-friendly materials: a sculpturally elegant concrete island (and concrete counters); custom lyptus cabinets made by American Loft Cabinetry; touches of sleek stainless steel; and carbonized bamboo floors. At the family's request, Okura also designed a sloped draining area next to the neatly inset sink, so the homeowners can rinse and drain vegetables or dry dishes.

**DEFINING DETAIL:** Careful measurements were key. The home belongs to a family of four—two tall parents and two teenaged girls—who love to cook together. "During the planning stages," says the designer, "we had them role-play working in the kitchen all at once and individually. At what height did their wrists rest comfortably on the counters? How far did their arms stretch? If they were holding a pot of water for pasta, how high could they hold it? Every measurement is designed for the family's ease of movement without being out of range for anyone else who might inhabit the house some day."

**WHY IT WORKS:** The materials are green; the measurements fit the family; the aesthetics are clean. But there are also deeply personal elements woven into the kitchen. Okura designed the lighted space above the oven and refrigerator to showcase the family's art from their life in Europe while an antique armoire opposite the stove top (not shown) creates a classical touch that is also a piece of family history.

Design Details: Eiko Okura, Eiko Okura Interior Design and Feng Shui, (303) 777-5135, eikookura.com; Concrete Revolution, (303) 893-4814, concretereolution.com; Red Pepper Kitchen + Bath, (303) 413-9400, redpepdesign.com.

