

# Pamela Polvere



Remodeling homes with “character” keep this Illinois designer busy.

This kitchen remodel was inspired by a beautiful cut of quartzite the designer found to help meet the needs of a busy family of five in Oak Park, Illinois.

“Marble is an extremely popular material to use on countertops in today’s kitchens,” says designer Pamela Polvere. “However, marble is porous and requires maintenance. It’s not always practical for a family with three children.”

Polvere suggested quartzite for this kitchen’s countertop surfaces. Quartzite is a metaphoric rock that looks like marble but is more dense and less porous.

“I found a gorgeous white quartzite with gray marbling — this was the starting point for the kitchen,” she adds. “From there I chose white cabinets and clean, modern accents. The Viking range in the Graphite Gray color was a perfect fit.”

The homeowners had requested a Viking range and hood, but originally requested it in a stainless steel finish. After speaking with the owners and surveying their 1920s Colonial home, she recommended the range in Graphite Gray.

“This home has very clean lines with a lot of decorative windows. The color palette is made up mostly of blues and greens and golds so I felt the Graphite Gray would work well with the rest of the home,” Polvere says.

“Many clients love color in their homes,” she explains, “but when it comes to larger pieces like appliances, they are hesitant to veer from stainless steel. However, the Graphite Gray color is still neutral and nicely ties in the gray accents (like the gray in the tile backsplash) of the kitchen. Once the owners saw the samples I pulled together,

they were very comfortable with the color.”

The 36" W. Viking Custom Sealed Burner Range includes four burners, a 12" W. Griddle/Grill Cover, and a High Shelf. A 36" W. Wall Hood with a Chrome Accessory Rail was also incorporated.

The High Shelf was requested by the homeowner to serve two purposes:

1. As the homeowners cook frequently, they had concerns about protecting the tile backsplash behind the range. This High Shelf protects the back wall from cooking oils.
2. The High Shelf also allows the cook to keep cooking spices, utensils, etc. nearby without consuming countertop space.

As an addition to the kitchen remodel, a breakfast area was also added to the kitchen (see photo at left), which allowed for a larger-than-standard-width range.

“The 36" width allows everything to cook in one oven side-by-side,” says Polvere. “The owner didn’t want more than one oven, so the 36" width was the perfect solution.”

Polvere has been providing kitchen and bath solutions to clients in the Chicago area for more than 20 years. As a certified kitchen designer, she received her degree at the Harrington Institute of Interior Design in



The architect added a breakfast nook to the kitchen which allowed room for a 36" W. Range. The gray quartzite countertop is visible in this photo — the quartzite was the inspiration for this kitchen.



#### VIKING KITCHEN APPLIANCES

36"W. Custom Sealed Burner Range with 4 Burners  
12"W. Griddle/Grill cover and High Shelf  
36"W. Wall Hood with Chrome Accessory Rail

Chicago. She began her career as a space planner for large office cubicles and naturally evolved into design. Polvere has owned her own business, Pamela Polvere Designs Inc., located in Elmwood Park, Illinois, since 2000. The majority of her clientele is remodeling versus new construction. The smaller communities in which she works sport older homes with a lot of character.

"Homes I am privileged to work in have beautiful wood detail and art glass win-

dows," she says. "I try to incorporate details of a home when I remodel its kitchen."

Polvere's business has grown mostly based on word of mouth advertising.

"I may remodel one client's home and they tell their neighbor or book club friend or child's teacher. Most of my business comes from referrals. On one block I may have worked on three homes."

Polvere has been working with Viking products for years.

"I choose Viking products frequently because they have a reputation for being a quality product and they now offer color options. As a designer it makes it fun for us to work with color and set ourselves apart. Viking has done a great job with their color selection."

For additional information about Pamela Polvere Designs, Inc., go to [www.pamelapolveredesigns.com](http://www.pamelapolveredesigns.com).

