

Blond Ambition Pale woods serve as a serene backdrop for hard-edged modern elements.



▼ TIED TOGETHER In the Cape Town home of architect Greg Truen, a partner of the firm SAOTA, a breakfast bar of Carrara marble from Cannata & Sons blurs the boundaries between the kitchen and the living room. The washed-oak cabinets are from Roma Casa and the non-porous Snow White counters are from Caesarstone.

▼ IT'S A WRAP The fluid lines of smoked-oak panels extend into a breakfast nook by Rodolphe Parente in this apartment near the Champs-Élysées. A bespoke bench, upholstered in Jules et Jim fabric, is paired with a Zanotta table, stools covered with a Brochier fabric, and a chandelier from Lambert & Fils.



■ BLACK AND TAN In the Chicago home of designer Cari Giannoulias, the marble backsplash has a built-in shelf that elevates her everyday items. The rift-sawn oak cabinets are from JPT Cabinetry, the refrigerator from Sub-Zero, the cooktop and ovens from Wolf, the dishwasher from Bosch, and the coffeemaker from Miele.

