

Robb Report
LUXURY HOME

CUSTOM DESIGN + ARCHITECTURE + TECHNOLOGY

Feel the Heat

Snaidero's Acropolis Kitchen Finds a Home

Auction Fever

WHERE TO BID, BUY & SCHMOOZE

Custom Kitchen Cabinetry

TOYS FOR THE
Ultimate Media Room

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2007

\$5.95 US \$7.95 CAN



A CURTIS MEDIA PUBLICATION
robreportluxuryhome.com



Acropolis Now

The Snaidero kitchen takes center stage in a Minnesota home

IN A FITTING TRIBUTE to the Midwestern modernist spirit of the 20th century, Delhi Development asked Ralph Rapson, one of its most notable architects, to spearhead the multimillion-dollar renovation of a suburban Twin Cities home built in 1986. An early proponent of the International Style, Rapson imbued the three-level structure with buoyant, rectilinear lines and open spaces filled with natural light. Accordingly, the airy 40-by-27-foot kitchen was put in the deft hands of Heather Ahrens, director of sales and design for Studio Snaidero Wisconsin.

"The challenge was to stay in tune with the lightness, brightness and clean lines of what was happening architecturally and find cabinetry that would bring movement and gracefulness as well as a sense of presence," recalls Ahrens. Clearly, she felt the company's aerodynamic designs by Ferrari stylist Paolo Pininfarina were the optimum solution for such a project. Using his curvaceous Ola cabinetry in a blue metallic

lacquer, she softened the edges of the large rectangular space and created peripheral breakfast and storage areas, as well as housing for major appliances by Kuppersbusch, Miele, Sub-Zero and Liebherr. To create a focal point—and make up for the lack of usable wall space, two walls being glass—she seized the opportunity to install the exciting Acropolis freestanding circular island in recycled aircraft aluminum.

Inspired by Pininfarina's prowess on the drums, this 10-foot-diameter sculptural masterpiece provides superb handling, with all culinary essentials within arm's reach, as well as a stage on which to perform and entertain. According to Ahrens, "The Acropolis is meant to be the hub where a chef could creatively express himself in a very social environment."

Not surprisingly, this cutting-edge house sold quickly after completion early in 2006.

LINDA C. LENTZ

Studio Snaidero Wisconsin, 608.663.0448; www.snaidero-wi.com



For a modern Twin Cities residence built by architect Ralph Rapson, Studio Snaidero senior designer Heather Ahrens chose sleek blue cabinetry and a circular kitchen island created by Ferrari stylist Paolo Pininfarina. The island was inspired by Pininfarina's experience as a drummer.

THIS PAGE AND OPPOSITE: JEFF BRIDGES; LANGRISH PHOTOGRAPHY 2006