



on the couch

OnTheCouch by Kyle Timothy Blood & Dr. Venus Nicdino PhD.

Decorator versus shrink! (what Do you think?)



Do you think the furnishings and objects in a room reveal much about the homeowner(s)? Interior designers and psychologists have demonstrated in past On The Couch columns that they can identify characteristics of an unidentified home with amazing accuracy. This issue, we've invited interior designer Kyle Timothy Blood of Kyle Timothy Home to face off against Dr. Venus Nicdino PhD., a practicing doctor of clinical psychology in Beverly Hills. How do their assumptions come? Turn to page 138 to find out.

the interior Designer says

kyle timothy blood

This homeowner clearly has a penchant for the South of France and accordingly gave strict marching orders to the kitchen designer in this renovation: bring the color palette, textures and utilitarian yet whimsical aesthetic of Provence into this "kitchen with a view." The Moroccan-style lantern, a refreshing departure from overbearing island lighting fixtures, gives the final nod to a design that successfully seeks to evoke another land.

The client most likely hired a kitchen design firm, as evidenced by the custom design of the cabinetry, which, along with the backsplash, and countertops, create the framework for a cook's getaway, where he or she can create simple yet delicious dinners reminiscent of a lavender-infused countryside, with fresh vegetables and flowers, not to mention specialty cheeses, meats, breads, and ordinarily delicious table wines. Careful consideration was given to the appliances, whether for utility or eventual resale value: a Wolf range, a pot filler and brushed-nickel plumbing fixtures and hardware. One assumes the refrigerator is to the right of the island and that the dishwashers as well as a wine refrigerator are concealed behind custom cabinetry panels.

However, the homeowner is practical, maybe a bit too much. One wonders: Has he or she moved fully moved in, or is this a stage set? Where are the copper pots? The wooden spoons in a crock next to the stove? Even a teakettle or coffee maker—all the tools a true gourmand would have at hand. The client is either a Francophile minimalist; has paired down for resale; or has yet to completely outfit this kitchen, which promises many a happy memory and meal.

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the shrink says

Dr. venus nicolino, Ph.D

At first glance, this kitchen appears clean, cool and orderly. However, upon closer inspection, it has an strangely pared-down quality. Don't be fooled by the place settings—A glass of wine with your gazpacho served mid-day on imported china?—this room was not designed for a casual dining experience. Despite the minimal flair provided by European-inspired accents, this space lacks the personal touches that normally make the kitchen the heart of a home. It does not look “lived in”—which, I suspect is the homeowners' intention.

I imagine the person who lives here is a powerful business woman in her early-to-mid-forties with an time consuming career. Noticeably absent are any napkins or hand towels, giving the observer the impression that she values cleanliness over functionality.

The use of subtle tones of strong colors, as seen in the lighting island plant and countertop accessories, brings a hint of femininity to the strong edges of the marble and tile. It appears the owner of this space had the desire to incorporate all the structural elements to give the room an almost traditional feeling, but it is the lack of personal touches that leads me to believe that perhaps there is a conflict between reality and the perception of perfection. ✨

