



Melted Creamsicle

A river of orange and white provides whimsical contrast to the gunmetal color of this one-of-a-kind concrete countertop.

- Sean Dunston, Concrete Jungle Design



What do you get when you combine seven flavors of pigment, several pounds of sand, and a few buckets of water?

An unconventional frozen concrete confection!

With daring form and fresh technique, creator Sean Dunston of Concrete Jungle Design has effectively captured the paradoxical essence of concrete and its seemingly contradictory states of liquid and solid. He presents a sophisticated riddle of a kitchen. Whether inspired by Woody Allen or Willy Wonka, the kitchen is witty enough to stand the test of time.



Above: Bold changes in color, elevation, and angle are offset by restraint in the large volume elements like the floor and ceiling.

Far Left: Tempered glass sits flush with the countertop surface, with a nebula of color flowing into a terraced sculptural detail.

Left: A slab of tempered glass, floats beside an 8.5" tall cantilevered apron of concrete that acts as a canopy for a sculpture display niche, backed with a vertically cast, curved concrete wall.



Designer Notes

*Sean Dunston
Concrete Jungle Design*

Specifications Concrete Countertops

Total Retail Price: \$19,000

Volume: 17 cubic feet of concrete

Weight: 2,040 lbs

Concrete Mix: CHENG Pro-Formula, 7 different colors

Other Materials:

Lapis and Aluminum Inlays

3/8" Tempered Glass

Appliances:

Wall Oven - Thermador

Cooktop - Wolf

Dishwasher - Fisher Paykel

Plumbing:

Faucet - Dornbracht

Sink - Blanco

Cabinetry: Pedini

Lighting: LBL Lighting

Photography: David Beightol

Why concrete?

We started out with concrete as the material of choice because my clients fell in love with it when they saw CHENG Concrete founder Fu-Tung Cheng's work, and subsequently my work. If they had decided to use something else for the counters, they would have ended up with a more severe, less intimate space.

Client Desire

We were kicking several ideas around for a couple years before we figured out what we wanted to do. We actually started out with a Woody Allen "Sleeper" kind of feel, and worked toward this design, which is a completely different species of style. We wanted to have a lot of surface activity and color contrast, and we wanted to incorporate sculptural elements and cantilevers that would enhance the overall vibe of the kitchen by playing off the established architectural themes of the house and the surrounding landscape.

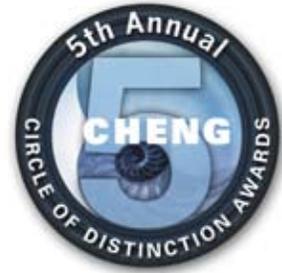
Client Reaction

My clients were excited about every part of the process, and since the installation they have had to convince guests that they were looking at concrete, and not some exotic stone. They love the natural geological feel of the concrete as well, resulting from the sealing as much as the casting technique.

Timing + Expertise

We poured the table-level island first, and the counter-level peninsula a year later. No big hurry on this one, and the design changed several times. The notes as far as colors, mix design, curing time, and shop temperature were quite extensive, because we knew it would be a while before the peninsula happened, and the colors had to match. Mixing integrally colored concrete in complicated and expensive mold work is risky, so we had to generate a series of samples to nail down the right colors and technique before we went live with it. We also played with a few different sealers on this one, because no perfect sealer exists, but the client was soundly convinced that our established method of a hybrid penetrating/very thin topical sealer was the way to go over the epoxy coatings used frequently by other fabricators, which is tantamount to wrapping a leather sofa with plastic, in my opinion.





Best Decorative Finish

concretejungledesign.com

Concrete Jungle and Concrete Jungle Design are located in Colorado Springs Colorado, and serve all of Colorado, or anywhere our work takes us.

Sean Dunston and Cade McKee have won 3 national awards for design and fabrication excellence, and are recognized as one of the best high-end concrete providers in the country.

Concrete Jungle Design was recently honored with an additional 5 national awards for 2009! This is unprecedented in the history of the Design Challenge, and we are grateful to our awesome clients for giving us the chance to show what we can do.



Concrete Jungle Design

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CHENG Concrete Exchange
Member Since 2006

CHENG Awards:

2008 Circle of Distinction Merit Award

2007 Circle of Distinction Honorable Mention

2007 Circle of Distinction Best Functional Feature

2007 Circle of Distinction Honorable Mention

CHENG Training:

Advanced Countertop Design Training

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