



# Mass Appeal

Significant mass, but with elegant form and a highly refined surface that contradicts preconceptions of concrete. - Sean Dunston, *Concrete Jungle Design*



**Delicately balancing a significant mass of concrete** (4,440 lbs!) with surprisingly elegant form, creator Sean Dunston of Concrete Jungle Design has ushered concrete into a new stage of development. He has managed to use the medium in a variety of shapes, sizes, planes, textures, and functions while still maintaining a unified and relaxing atmosphere in this kitchen.

Imagine a coloring book. All the outlines are there waiting for you to fill in with the colors of your choice. In this kitchen, the concrete provides the outlines for the “colors” of cabinetry and appliances. But the concrete outline that defines this kitchen isn’t just basic and black. It is complex, multi-textured, and multi-colored.

*Previous Page:* The vertical wall of the curved peninsula was intentionally left with unfilled voids, providing a subtle, but noticeable contrast with the smoother, more monochromatic countertop surfaces.

*Above:* The thinner vertical lines of the concrete cabinet frame provide relief that effectively balances the sheer mass and weight of the concrete peninsula. Both elements combine to create an integrated look that pulls the appliances and cabinetry together.



*Left:* Peninsula storage space is hidden behind a 1-1/2" thick curved steel door.

*Middle:* Vertical concrete walls literally take the standard concrete countertop to new heights (and planes) and provide the framework for the entire kitchen.

*Right:* Concrete is not just for countertops. Here, an integrated sink with built-in drainboard creates a seamless look that is intrinsically functional.

# Designer Notes

Sean Dunston  
Concrete Jungle Design

## Specifications Concrete Applications Design + Fabrication

**Total Retail Price:** \$48,000

**Volume:** 37 cubic feet of concrete

**Weight:** 4,440 lbs

**Concrete Mix:** 98% CHENG Pro-Formula Base,  
2% CHENG Pro-Formula Sand

**Dimensions:** 65 sq ft

### Appliances:

Rangehood - Futuro Futuro

Wall Ovens/Cooktop - Gaggenau

Refrigerator - Viking

Dishwasher - Bosch

### Plumbing:

Faucet - Dornbracht

Sink - JeldWen

**Cabinetry:** Red Pepper Kitchen & Bath

**Architect:** Rodwin Architecture

**Interior Design:** Eiko Okura

**Steel Fabrication:** Nickolas Ordahl

**Photography:** Molly Danti



### Why concrete?

The idea of concrete as a high-end finish material is still a sort of novelty to those who have not been exposed to it in that context, but this project was not a compromise. If they wanted the piece carved out of solid blocks of marble, they could have made it happen, but the feel would be different from what the client wanted.

### Client Desire

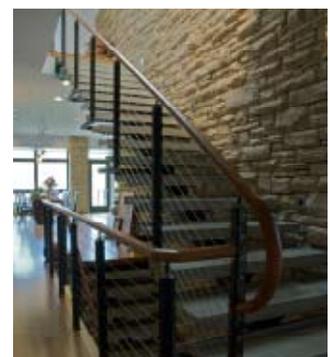
They wanted elegant form, significant mass, and a highly refined surface that still stated clearly what the material is.

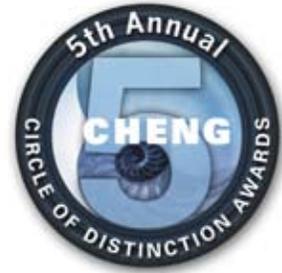
### Client Reaction

My clients seemed quite pleased with the project, so much so that they had us do the stairs (bottom right), a powder room vanity, a large steel sliding door, and a mailbox.

### Timing + Expertise

The planning started about two months before fabrication started, and the fabrication and installation took about two months of full-time work, spread out around overlapping trades. The concrete was to be free-standing so that the cabinetry and appliances would be installed after the concrete. The kitchen is on the second floor so weight was a big issue. 3" horizontal counters and 4" vertical walls made for a heavy installation, so we made the majority of the concrete 1-1/2" thick using foam panels. We used a crane to get all the components to the second floor. We wanted a cast surface for all the components and because of the distinct surface results between horizontal and vertical castings, we wanted all the vertical elements to be cast vertically, so monolithic pieces that were to transition from wall to countertop had to be cast upside-down.





## Best Interior Kitchen

**[concretejungledesign.com](http://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**

**Sean Dunston**

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CHENG Awards:

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2007 Circle of Distinction Best Functional Feature

2007 Circle of Distinction Honorable Mention

CHENG Training:

Advanced Countertop Design Training

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CONCRETE  
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