

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Banquettes: The Posh Corner Table

New designs are allowing the built-in dining areas to complement interiors in high-end homes.

By Laila Kearney

Nov. 7, 2013 6:39 pm ET

Banquettes are no longer hiding in the corner. New designs are allowing the built-in dining areas to complement interiors in high-end homes while creating their own distinctive spaces in the kitchen, dining room or patio. Here is a look at some of the updated eating spaces.



The piece is made of American walnut slightly stained and oiled. GREGORY HOLM

Old Meets New

A solid wood bench-style banquette by New York millworker, furniture and fixture company Townsend Design was made to match its minimalist surroundings. The piece, a central part of the dining area of a renovated barn house in Southampton, N.Y., is made of American walnut slightly stained and oiled. "It's a very simple design, but because of the warmth of the wood it makes it a cozy corner," said Francis D'Haene, whose Manhattan firm

D'Apostrophe designed the home for a family of five. Mr. D'Haene didn't know the age of the residence but said materials used on its rustic exterior dated back 300 years.

Cost: \$22,000



McKinney York designed this piece using maple-veneer plywood topped with custom-made, terry-cloth cushions.
CASEY DUNN

People Friendly

People and pillows were meant to pile onto this L-shaped banquette in the kitchen corner of a 4,000-square-foot, modern home in Austin, Texas, by McKinney York Architects in Austin. McKinney York designed the piece using maple-veneer plywood topped with custom-made, terry-cloth cushions. A classic tulip table that once belonged to the homeowner's mother was partially reconstructed to match. Its metal base was repainted at an auto-body shop using the owner's favorite "Mini Cooper yellow," McKinney York architect Brian Carlson said.

Cost: \$2,500



This piece incorporates pitched-back padding and thick seat cushions on a wooden base. MICHAEL STAVARIDIS

Bright and Miami Beachy

Robert Kaner Interior Design in Manhattan created a long and lean banquette for a modernist home in Florida's San Marino Island. "We needed the space-saving advantages of a banquette, but wanted to create one with a light, floating feeling to inject a sense of spaciousness in the relatively small dining area," Robert Kaner said. The piece incorporates pitched-back padding and thick seat cushions on a wooden base. Polished nickel-plated legs give the bench a hovering look, Mr. Kaner said. The piece is finished in East Indian laurel wood and white leather-upholstered seat cushions.

Cost: About \$20,000

Simple Lines

Foley Fiore Architecture firm, of Cambridge, Mass., put a modern twist on this banquette in a penthouse suite in a late 19th-century building in Manhattan's Central Park West. "We were trying to merge the elegance of the original 1800s building with



The banquette is elevated by a limestone tile platform in the middle of the apartment. ELLEN MCDERMOTT

the
indus-
trial
feelin-
g of
the
apart-
ment
,"

said
princ

ipal architect David Foley. The banquette is elevated by a limestone tile platform in the middle of the apartment. A curved, 3½-foot-tall zinc wall runs along the back of the wood dining table, with a sofa in beige linen and velvet. The chairs, custom designed by Kathryn Scott Design Studio in Brooklyn, have a wood-patterned fabric.

Cost: \$28,000, including zinc wall



A cedar canopy and soft upholstered backing is used to set this dining space apart. WERNER STRAUBE

A Space Apart

Morgant
e Wilson
Architec
ts, in
Evansto
n, Ill.,
used a
cedar

canopy and soft upholstered backing to set this dining space apart from the rest of the Winnetka home's interior redesign. "This banquette piece kind of makes a little room within a room," said principal architect Elissa Morgante. The piece uses an oak bench and table base with a zinc top in addition to the camel-colored leatherette and a smooth cedar mini-ceiling supported with steel rods. The area overlooks the backyard of the six-bedroom, 4½-bathroom Tudor-style house.

Cost: \$4,000