

Livingetc

The architectural trend that squeezes seating into even the smallest of kitchens, creating perfect nooks

Modern banquettes are having a moment, with designers creating seating in even the most awkward of kitchen layouts

FILL AN AWKWARD SPACE



Built-in banquettes can reclaim spaces that aren't obvious fits for furniture — like the curved spot beneath a bow window, or a small nook without room for loose chairs. It's why the blue banquette above is the perfect solution. "This semicircular banquette was designed in the most geometrically challenging corner of a triangular-shaped apartment," explains Juliana Sorzano of New York's [PJCArchitecture](#). "Due to the

proximity to the kitchen and the lack of a formal dining space, it made sense to design a custom banquette that provided both a functional space for eating and softened the footprint's sharpest corner."

The lesson here is just how functional built-in banquettes can be compared with conventional furniture. But even though your design might be custom, be careful with your size and shape. "A big mistake would be to give the wrong proportions to a banquette and either create something too big that feels cramped in a space or something too small that feels out of scale," adds Sorzano. "Paying close attention to functionality and thinking about accessibility for each user are also key considerations when designing built-in banquettes."