

SHOWCASING BC & ALBERTA'S ARCHITECTS AND INTERIOR DESIGNERS

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# DESIGN

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## SPARKLING HILL RESORT

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DESIGNER JERILYN WRIGHT | KITCHEN & BATH | FURNITURE | GREEN DESIGN

# designing a dream kitchen

BY TOM BAKKER



Before

After

Kitchens today are often the show-piece in any home, making design considerations for a new or renovated space that much more important. An outdated kitchen can be transformed into a dream space that is functional, cozy and beautiful with a carefully planned renovation. From colour selection to fixtures and cabinetry, the key to a successful renovation is detailed upfront discussion of what the client's goals are. These goals can be visualized in a "dream book".

For this 12,000 square foot house in South Surrey, the owners wanted a new dream kitchen that would be warm, cozy and above all grand. It was to include features such as a walk-in pantry and a rear deck to accommodate indoor/outdoor living. The project was an amazing challenge, because the existing space was large and uninviting.

Kitchen remodeling is something that needs to be carefully planned using the size and configuration of the room. In this project, the first main challenge was to determine the general layout and traffic areas of the kitchen which would help dictate where the Nanawall folding door would be located, allowing the owners to walk out onto their new rear deck that was part of phase one. The door to the deck would be in the main kitchen area.

A current trend is to transform kitchens into Great Rooms where larger groups of

people can entertain and prep food all at the same time, without being visually separated. The challenge with that is to create space in such a way that people who are "watching" will not be in the way of people who are prepping food. A big advantage of this project was the large space. The owners wanted to make sure though that it was going to be cozy and intimate, meaning that the space can still be large but that it wouldn't be perceived that way. The solution chosen was to use two oversized islands and dark stained cabinetry to help achieve that goal. One large ceiling drop over both islands painted in a darker accent colour was another important contributor to making the new interior warm and cozy. One of the islands accommodates five barstools for a breakfast area.

A great challenge when designing renovations is to address architectural details that are "in the way" and if something can't "go away", it needs to be unrecognizably integrated in the new interior. In the middle of this space was a structural post, which could not be removed, so a second one was added. With a TV cabinet in between it helped to create a semi-transparent separator between the kitchen and the adjoining sitting room. This TV cabinet, including posts and a small ceiling drop, were finished in a dark stained wood to co-ordinate well with the islands. The existing structural post "went away" and became part of cabinetry. These details are

tough challenges sometimes, but when addressed properly, can become harmonious elements of the new interior.

Another big trend is that base cabinets have full extension drawers, so people don't have to "dig" anymore to get to whatever is stored inside. Soft-close hardware has become a given.

A beautiful hammered copper farmer's sink was placed in the larger island closest to the rear of the home, allowing the owner to enjoy the view of a spectacular back yard. A co-ordinating free-form smaller hammered copper sink was placed in the bar.

Storage is always key and this kitchen did not have enough of it. The space had one long angled wall that needed to "disappear", because it was not in harmony with any other detail in the home. Also, the furniture arrangement for the adjoining sitting room was not going to work because of this angle. Adding a large walk-in pantry addressed both challenges. The pantry door was built to look like wall paneling, so the pantry access would not be obvious.

Two-tone interiors are a popular trend for large kitchens. The perimeter cabinetry was painted in Cloud White from Benjamin Moore and antiqued with a glaze that co-ordinated with the dark stained wood island cabinets and TV cabinet. All cabinet fronts were built in a timeless Shaker style. Cabinet hardware matches the brushed stainless steel Sub Zero rod handles. The upper perimeter cabinetry has authentic leaded glass panels and LED back lighting inside to create a stunning and cozy ambiance for when it gets dark outside. ☐

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