

# HUB OF THE Home

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## SPECIALIZED AREAS MAKE A VERY SPECIAL KITCHEN

Most people blessed with a voluminous area in which to place their new kitchen would never dream that the ample space might pose a design challenge. A cook can never have enough cabinets and countertops, right? That was originally the attitude of the owners of this spacious new kitchen—a family with two pre-teen sons.

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## "Modernizing" a Victorian Kitchen

When the owners of this 1906 "Informal Victorian" home or caretaker's cottage in Wayne first approached us about remodeling their kitchen, they, of course, wanted to update the functionality and appearance of their kitchen. They had a previous design that changed a full wall to a half wall with a breakfast bar but did little else to correct other drawbacks. Working within the existing footprint provided few opportunities to increase its work areas or storage capabilities.

The original 80s kitchen had a small broken U-shaped layout into which three doors opened—one from the family room, one to the living room and one to the basement. There is a chimney chase that creates an offset in one wall run that limited the cabinet and countertop depths to approximately 36". Large windows that transmitted a great deal of natural light were actually

oversized for the proportions of the room and prohibited the use of one wall for the placement of cabinets and appliances. The lighting needed to be improved and this required that the old knob and tube wiring be removed.

Positive aspects of the kitchen that we wanted to maintain were 8-foot ceilings, the rustic Mexican tile floor, two separate sink areas, a Sub-Zero refrigerator, and barn board paneling in an adjoining hallway.

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The central area they had devoted to the kitchen was twenty-four feet long and twenty feet wide. The husband had envisioned a room that embraced the total space as one main working area. An adjacent room that was eight by nine was available "if more space was needed." But after a short course on the impact of kitchen design on the realities of food preparation, he agreed that a room made up of specialized areas would make more sense.

The first priority, then, was to carve out a reasonably-sized area in which to incorporate a kitchen work triangle. To accomplish this, an "L" shaped perimeter island was created. This island houses a Fisher & Paykel drawer dishwasher, GE Monogram Microwave oven, under-counter SubZero crisper drawers and a stainless steel sink. The casual eating area is a favorite place for the boys to gather around at meal times.

To the left of the main sink is a Dacor

double-oven professional range flanked left and right by a SubZero refrigerator and freezer. A Best hood provides excellent ventilation for the cooking area.

On the far side of the large central space, the social area of the kitchen was designed.

The back wall is equipped with a U-Line Ice Maker and Sub Zero Wine Cooler, as well as a bar sink. There is plenty of storage for snacks and the mirrored backsplash beautifully showcases the wife's stemware collection.

In the center of the room a massive 96" x 57" island allows guests to mill around the social area, while food prep is going on in the working part of the kitchen. The homeowners wanted no hanging fixtures in the kitchen, so all of the light comes from recessed cans. The dropped ceiling brings the light source from the cans closer to the work surface and creates a "space within a space," breaking up the expanse of white ceiling.

The cabinets are high-end custom frameless



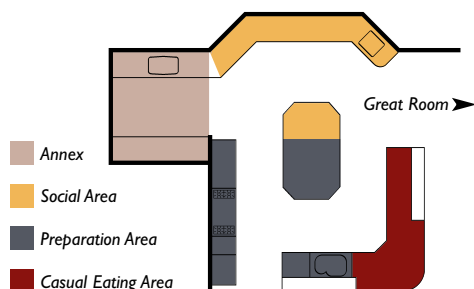
Professional range flanked by SubZero refrigerator and freezer.

construction with a flat-panel door style. The doors are wood veneer with a durable solid wood edge that affords the possibility of the soft, rounded-edge profile. The two-tone effect using cherry and maple was a part of the scheme developed to bring the enormous size of the project into a cozy, family-friendly environment. Linear lights in the clear glass door units illuminate the collectibles and stemware stored there.

The granite is Viara from India. Huge slabs were required to cover the oversized requirements for this kitchen. The granite wall behind the stove is 6' high and 6' wide and was produced in three pieces for transport. The seaming is flawless and the pastel veining is beautifully matched throughout the kitchen and great room.

When a really big function takes place, the "Annex" comes into play. The remote 8' x 9' alcove serves as a wonderful staging area where caterers can help with large dinner parties. This area is also a great clean up center, allowing dirty dishes to be corralled and still be somewhat out of sight after the main course is served. The Annex houses a second sink, dishwasher and an oven for specialty food preparation. Tambours hide routine small appliances in this area as well.

In the adjacent Great Room a fireplace wall that is both beautiful and functional was created. The columns on either side of the fireplace pull out to house CDs, DVDs and VCR tapes. The granite surround and cabinetry visually tie the fireplace wall to the kitchen and completes the picture. □



The Great Room

Photos for this article: By Mike Kaskel of Kaskel Architectural Photography 313-280-9364  
Courtesy of Stephanie Witt

# Super Showers

It was not that long ago that whirlpool or air-jetted tubs were the absolute must-have for homeowners in their bathrooms. Now, that desire seems to be shifting in favor of the separate, oversized, multi-headed, hydro-massaging super shower. It is a fact of modern life that everyone is in a hurry. A shower is seen as a speedy option, when time is of the essence.

The popular showers that are being installed today have several showerheads—a down-pour showerhead, a wall showerhead and a handheld showerhead. In addition, several body jets and body sprays are mounted at different levels on the wall, with a thermostatic control valve and perhaps a steam inlet as well. This offers the bather a wonderful vertical massage. One or two built-in seats, plus shelves for toiletries are often included in the super shower.

Custom super showers can be put together piece-by-piece, giving homeowners the prerogative of choosing which components they want and exactly where they will be mounted. With a custom shower, the valves can be placed so that the user can stand outside the shower and turn it on. The showerhead can be at the other end, the body sprays on one wall, and the handspray on another. With this arrangement, the bather can be enveloped in water spraying from all directions.

*Grohe's Amera Shower is a simple to install system in tempered glass with many easy-to-use components.*



Photo: Courtesy of Hansgrohe - www.hansgrohe-usa.com

*Right: This Steam Shower Cabin by Hansgrohe features a Mr. Steam generator, electronic temperature controls, and six adjustable body sprays.*

An all-in-one system has the advantage of ease of installation because the plumbing is as simple as connecting the hot and cold. Some luxurious systems offer tantalizing extras, such as aromatherapy, luminotherapy and even built-in stereo. There are shower systems that simply hang on the wall, much like a picture. Others are contained in columns that extend up from the floor. Complete units are available that include the shower enclosure as well. No matter what a homeowner conceptualizes, there is a super shower out there to satisfy every need. □

*The Delta Select Total Escape allows users to configure their own system of body sprays and jets, showerheads, hand-held showers, with volume controls and a thermostatic control valve.*



Photo: Courtesy of Delta - www.deltafaucet.com

Photo: Courtesy of Grohe - www.groheamerica.com

## FLOORING TRENDS: TILE The Look of Stone

Among all the various flooring choices for a home, tile continues to be a frequently selected material. The trend is increasing toward porcelain tile that takes on the look of stone. This type of tile is being installed in all areas of the home, inside and out. In the foyer or patio where homeowners would once have chosen natural slate, now porcelain tile that emulates the weathered appearance and random colors of slate has become a convincing option. Marble has always been seen as the epitome of a classy bathroom floor, but porcelain tile that persuasively mimics the rich, elegant qualities of marble is coming on strong. From rugged stone looks to sophisticated high-gloss selections, porce-



Photo: Courtesy of Crossville Porcelain Stone/USA www.crossville-ceramics.com

*Featuring the authentic circles within circles and veins upon veins that characterize the unique look of real cross-cut travertine, Tuscania porcelain tile by Crossville exudes a warmth and elegance that will beautify any room or space.*

extreme hardness and density, slip resistance, resistance to stains, ease of maintenance, exceptional durability and high breaking strength. Unlike ceramic tile with color that lies on the surface, through-body porcelain tile is fired at extremely high temperatures to lock color deep into the body of the tile for beauty that will not flake, wear, or fade.

Porcelain tile never needs waxing. The easiest way to keep a porcelain tile floor looking new and lovely is to regularly sweep or vacuum and then clean with hot water. A household cleanser may be used for more aggressive cleaning. Rinse thoroughly afterwards until all detergent residue is removed. □

lain tile offers something for every taste. Porcelain tile displays the desired beauty of natural stone, yet provides the benefits of



## "Modernizing" a Victorian Kitchen

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In designing the new kitchen particular attention was paid to making selections that were in keeping with the age and style of the house. It is an Informal Victorian or Queen Anne Victorian, not to be confused with the formal architecture of the reign of Queen Anne. Queen Anne Victorians have a more "cottage" feel than the classic "High Victorians," and the interiors share elements of the Arts and Crafts movement.

Since the owners belong to a large closely-knit family, they frequently host large, multi-generational events, a function for which the new kitchen is ideally suited with its peninsula, island, second sink and beverage refrigerator.

The owners are delighted with the outcome. They have received tons of comments including, "It is as if the kitchen was always here!" "It fits!" and "It is such a happy room!" They have asked HUB to continue the effect, carrying the design into an office area off the family room.

Whatever your personal style or that of your home, we would love to create a new living space for you and your family. Please contact **HUB Design/Build** at **(610) 688-7475**.



### FEATURES OF THE KITCHEN:

- full overlay oak cabinets with Shaker style routed (beadboard) doors finished in a low sheen Buttercream
- customized crown moulding treatment
- Vela Brown Zodiac quartz composite on the perimeter counter top runs
- Corian undermounted sinks
- an imported Spekva heart ash wooden work top on the island
- a Thermador stainless steel all gas professional range with convection capability
- a Thermador stainless steel 600 CFM professional range hood with fold-down warming racks
- a Miele stainless steel integrated dishwasher
- a Miele stainless steel coffee system that brews traditional coffees as well as espresso and cappuccino
- a Marvel under counter beverage refrigerator with full overlay cabinet panels
- the original Sub-Zero refurbished and installed with cabinet panels
- a built-in stainless steel GE microwave with concealed venting
- recessed ceiling lighting on Mistro dimmer switches that gradually raise the light level
- a Jerusalem gold tumbled marble backsplash which extends above the window and foyer doorway
- new barn board applied to backside of peninsula stained to match the existing barn board paneling on the adjacent walls
- 48" solid 6-panel pocket doors that open to the foyer



BEFORE

AFTER

