

NEW JERSEY'S HOME & DESIGN MAGAZINE

design NJ

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2016



WRITER JUDY JEANNIN
PHOTOGRAPHER PETER RYMWID
DESIGNER HOLLY RICKERT

Big on Style

This small Wyckoff kitchen gets a lesson in form, function and beauty

Designer Holly Rickert transformed an ordinary kitchen into a stylish space for cooking, family dining and entertaining. To compensate for the lack of a window over the sink, she introduced a large-scale tile that carries around to the cooking area. Pendant lights were hung over the sink to add further visual interest. The sleek cherry cabinetry is accented in stainless steel that echoes the appliances and the glass and steel hood over the range.

Armed with folders full of inspirational ideas

and a firm grasp on the way she wanted her kitchen to look and function, Pam Giovatto was ready to renovate. All she needed was someone to help her realize her dream.

The kitchen posed several problems. It's one of the smallest rooms in the Wyckoff split-level she and husband John bought in 1994. There is no window, and it provides a passageway to the family room added to the back of the house. An island made the room seem tight.

Coming to her aid was Holly Rickert of Holly Rickert/Designing Your Environment in Wyckoff. Key to the partnership was Rickert's willingness to listen to her client. "If you are not a good listener, you are not going to give the client what she wants," the designer says. "It's the clients' money, and you want to effect the changes they want to make."

Rickert finds it important to consider the way the family behaves, how the members interact, how they cook and how they want the kitchen to function.



The peninsula that wraps the side and back of the refrigerator has proved a popular space for family dining. It also provides extra counter space when entertaining. Pam Giovatto outfitted the stainless steel cabinet to store items such as appliance cords and light bulbs. Opposite are a steam oven, microwave and warming drawer. The area beneath is recessed to house dog bowls.

SLEEK & EFFICIENT

Foremost was Giovatto's desire for the sleek design and efficiency of a boat galley. "We owned a boat, and I wanted in this kitchen what I had on the boat. It was one of the inspirations for me," she says.

The first step in the renovation was for Rickert to create a plan that would maximize the floor space, providing an efficient food preparation area and a spot for family dining. Complicating the design was the fact that one wall is interrupted with French doors leading to the outside as well as a doorway to the family room.

To define the entrance to the family room, Rickert created a passageway by placing a bank of ovens encased in cherry cabinetry on one side of

the doorway and the refrigerator on the other. A peninsula beside the refrigerator serves as dining space or an extra counter. Rather than try to find space for a table and chairs, she nestled a banquette into a corner near the French doors and paired it with a marble-topped pedestal table.

FOCAL POINTS

Because most kitchens center the sink beneath a window, Rickert had to find a way to create visual interest in that area. That dilemma was resolved by using a boldly dimensional neutral tile from countertop to ceiling and staggering colorful pendant lights the client chose above the area. A dramatic stainless-steel-and-glass vent above the range gives

the L-shaped food prep area another focal point.

To achieve the sleek look Giovatto wanted, the American cherry cabinets were outfitted with brushed metal handles and accented with stainless steel kick plates and a ribbon of stainless steel sandwiched between the cabinets and the molding above. Rickert wrapped the back of the refrigerator with a stainless steel cabinet that Giovatto, an organizational expert, outfitted to store the flotsam and jetsam that seems to accumulate in every kitchen. As founder of A Beautiful Home, she offers staging and organizational assistance to clients.

Giovatto is delighted with the results. "You don't need a huge kitchen," she says. "The design is so extraordinary that it is perfect." **ENJ**

Judy Jeannin, a regular contributor to Design NJ, is a Hillsdale-based writer.

SOURCES kitchen design, Holly Rickert of Holly Rickert/Designing Your Environment in Wyckoff in collaboration with homeowner Pam Giovatto, owner of A Beautiful Home in Wyckoff; cabinetry, The Hampshire Co. through Holly Rickert/Designing Your Environment; Sub-Zero refrigerator, Wolf range and ovens, and Miele hood, Yudin's Inc. in Wyckoff; Franke sink, Elkay faucet and Omnia hardware, Hardware Design in Fairfield; chandelier, Luxe Light Studio in Fairfield; Walker Zanger Studio Moderne Collection backsplash tile, Stratta, the Tile Boutique in Wyckoff; pendant lights, Lighting By Gregory in Upper Saddle River; banquette upholstery, Michael Felice Interiors in Wyckoff; floor tile, Mediterranean Tile & Marble in Fairfield; contracting, DeLuccia Construction in Wyckoff; staging and accessories, A Beautiful Home; painting, Rich Giaccone of R&G Painting in Norwood.

The tufted banquette nestled into a corner of the modestly sized kitchen was inspired by one that homeowners John and Pam Giovatto admired in a loft in South Beach, Florida. The pedestal table has a marble top. Other features include a small workspace next to the banquette.

As Featured in February/March 2016 of

designNJ