



Sum of Its Parts

When the owners of this Piedmont home decided it was time for a kitchen remodel, they called their old friends from Custom Kitchens, because the company, under the tutelage of founder John Wilkins, had overhauled the kitchen once before, in 1982. Fast-forward 25 years, and the founder's son, Jerry Wilkins, and Jerry Wilkins' wife, Joy, own and operate the company. "It was amazing how well the 1982 kitchen had held up, but a new remodel was an opportunity to add new features and small changes to give the kitchen an updated look and better efficiency in storage and appliances," says project designer Joy Wilkins.

Despite the kitchen's petite 150-square-foot space, Joy Wilkins and her staff were able to pack a powerful punch of amenities that include maximum storage within the custom cabinets, ample prep space on the granite countertops, a built-in Sub-Zero refrigerator, double ovens and six-burner range by Wolf.

To open up the windowless space to the well-lit family room, an archway was created. In doing so, the deep countertop acts as a breakfast bar accessed from the family room. Additionally, the opening allows the more spectacular features of the kitchen to shine. Those elements include custom-built crown molding, a custom-designed hood (built by Robert Lavezzo of Oakland) and a muted-green ceramic-tile backsplash that incorporates the same metal "rivet" tiles (both from Walker Zanger) of the hood. Together, they all act to create true culinary art form.

Designer/Contractor:
**Custom Kitchens by
John Wilkins Inc., Oakland**

Staging: **Cynthia Taylor**



