

Kitchens We Love

Take a spin through five spectacular East Bay kitchens that are sure to inspire and delight.

PARTY PALACE

Built by an apprentice of Frank Lloyd Wright in the 1960s, this Piedmont home was made for parties. In fact, the living room's barreled ceilings were specifically designed to enhance the acoustics of the first owners' grand organ concerts.

To keep the spirit alive, current owners Dana Fox and Paul Langlie wanted to enhance these convivial properties within the kitchen in a more contemporary way. Kitchen designer Joy Wilkins took great strides in upgrading the kitchen that respected both the existing architecture and the couple's modern entertainment wishes.

Rollout accessibility is key to the kitchen's design. From the trash and compost facilities to the plentiful pantry drawers, about 90 percent of the cabinets roll out to make this kitchen 100 percent efficient for managing gatherings of any size.

An abundance of counter space is laid out within this wide space to facilitate ideal flow. The island doubles as both a generous eat-at counter and buffet station.



“We used to have a closetlike pantry with deep, dark shelves where things would hide. Now, because almost everything rolls out, there’s no opportunity for items to get lost or go unused. I even have a rollout warming drawer, which makes entertaining and everyday life very convenient.”

—Dana Fox

THE TEAM:

Designer: Joy Wilkins, CKD, of Custom Kitchens by John Wilkins Inc., Oakland

Project manager: Nader Feidy, CR, of Custom Kitchens, Oakland

Design/builder: Custom Kitchens, Oakland

Photography: Scott Hargis



Behind glass cabinets, pops of color draw the eye to vibrant focal points. “I found the glassware while visiting a little shop in Chandler, Arizona,” notes Fox. “They add a festive touch.”

Under-counter wine and beverage refrigerators eliminate the need for cumbersome coolers on party days.



Fox and Langlie always loved the house’s architecture, including the kitchen’s prominent brick pillars. To accentuate their presence, the team found porcelain floor and backsplash tiles to provide the original pillars a quiet backdrop.

The dining table was purchased by Fox 20 years ago from a Los Angeles design showroom. Though originally stained a natural wood hue, the table proved too yellow in its new home. It was painted a chocolate shade and matched with black chairs for a new look that nicely contrasts the bare wood cabinetry.

MARKETPLACE

DINING TABLE: Refinished by D&D Furniture Restoration, Oakland; **DINING CHAIRS:** Restoration Hardware; **RIFT-CUT WHITE OAK CABINETRY:** Bentwood Kitchens, sourced from Custom Kitchens; **FLOOR AND BACKSPLASH TILES:** Tileshop, Berkeley; **REFRIGERATOR AND OVENS:** Sub-Zero/Wolf, sourced from Custom Kitchens