



Celebrating Grandeur in Alameda

Inside this Alameda Colonial Revival home built in the late 1800s was a kitchen remodeled in the 1930s. The current owners were partial to the home's heritage, but the kitchen, like so many created during the Great Depression, strayed from its potential grandeur.

The homeowners hired Custom Kitchens by John Wilkins Inc. of Oakland to breathe the grace and poise associated with the turn of the century back into the room. Joy Wilkins, a certified kitchen designer, and project manager/associate kitchen and bath designer Eric Jackson worked with their clients to understand their needs: She's a baker; he likes to work the range; both enjoy cooking together and entertaining large parties.

To accommodate the homeowners' wish list, the team divided the room into a variety of stations. The baking area is laid out so everything, from the eggs to the mixer, can be accessed in arm's reach of the island's built-in Wolf convection oven. Similarly, effortless preparation of an assortment of dishes takes

place at the 48-inch Wolf gas range, which includes an integrated griddle for Sunday morning pancakes.

One of the homeowners' big requests was a custom mosaic that was designed, fabricated and installed using a tree of life pattern in marble and onyx to create a focal point above the cook top.

Custom cabinetry from Bentwood Kitchens, for which Custom Kitchens is a dealer, provides storage of any configuration throughout the space. Cream cabinets, coated with a light glaze, line the room's perimeter to contrast with the island's natural alder hue. The island, shaped somewhat triangular, features a farm sink, integrated dishwasher and seating for two that stays clear of the two adjacent integrated refrigerators and French doors.

Emerald green quartzite from Brazil was fabricated and installed by Fox Marble & Granite in San Francisco to create spacious countertops for food preparation areas as well as a convenient staging area near the dining

room. Upper glass cabinets store and display the homeowners' collection of china and crystal.

"We made sure to include everything to provide all the conveniences, functionality and, of course, beauty to make this kitchen work for any occasion – and any time period," explains Joy Wilkins. →

Designer: **Joy Wilkins**, CKD, Custom Kitchens by John Wilkins Inc., Oakland
 Project Manager: **Eric Jackson**, AKBD, Custom Kitchens by John Wilkins Inc.
 Contractor: **Custom Kitchens** by John Wilkins Inc.