

WASHINGTON MARYLAND VIRGINIA

HOME & DESIGN

Luxury Homes • Interior Design • Fine Furnishings LATE WINTER 2004

Special Kitchen & Bath Issue

Entertaining By Design
Showhouse



STYLISH
ITALIAN VILLA

LUXURY HOME GUIDE, PAGE 177

www.HomeandDesign.com



70989 34239 2

Kitchen designer **Lois Kennedy** applies historical connections to three outstanding kitchens

Kitchens in **context**

By *Heather C. Jackson*

With a family background in building and architecture plus a degree in fine art, Lois Kennedy found that kitchen design was the perfect combination of her skills. Often the most complicated room to design, the kitchen calls on both technical and artistic abilities to make everything come together. When approaching a project that has historical origins, Kennedy looks toward a home's exterior architecture for guidance. As the following three kitchens show, it is possible to embrace historical design within a 21st-century lifestyle.



Kitchen Designs: Lois Kennedy, CKD, Portfolio Kitchens, Vienna, Virginia

Simplicity defines the exterior of this mid-1800s farmhouse (above), but the Victorian-era design influences of the original furnishings come to life in the warm kitchen. A hand-painted mosaic of the "Tree of Life" creates an artistic focal point in the kitchen (right).



© OMAR SAHIN/RETECH PHOTO



A Victorian Farmhouse

The exterior of this simple Virginia farmhouse belies the grandeur inside. The Victorian-era antique furnishings that fill the home influenced Lois Kennedy's innovative approach to the kitchen.

A traditional farmhouse would have had a functional but stark servants' kitchen; Kennedy, however, responded to the client's desire for a more furnished look. Period-appropriate design elements in the kitchen came from the elegant antique furnishings found in other rooms, many of them original to the house, which was built in the mid-1800s.

Applying these Victorian design elements, Kennedy gave the kitchen more personality with warm colors and interesting architectural accents, including detailed mouldings, while maintaining a high level of functionality. The island is a prep area with refrigerated drawers, and a hutch serves as a breakfast bar. Premier Custom Cabinets, which built the cabinetry throughout the kitchen, reproduced the hutch, designed by Kennedy from an antique piece.

As an artistic focal point for the room, a mosaic Kennedy designed for the homeowner based on the "Tree of Life" is displayed over the range. "The woman who owns this house loves and treasures life," she says. A volunteer with the Animal Rescue League, she has converted the basement of the farmhouse into a facility for the care and rehabilitation of abused and neglected animals. She is also an avid organic gardener, and it was the family's desire to preserve the land that led them to buy the property, which is kept as a working farm. Painted and fired by a local artist, the mosaic seemed "the right idea for a woman who contributes to the wholeness of the earth and life," muses Kennedy.

RESOURCES

Cabinetry: Premier Custom Built, Inc., New Holland, PA.
Countertops: Marble Source Unlimited, Inc., Annapolis Junction, MD.
Tile Painting: Pat Bergeron, Monrovia, MD.
Appliances: Viking, Miele, Sub-Zero.

The lines of the kitchen cabinets, along with details in the mouldings and hardware, reflect the Victorian furniture found throughout the home.



© OMAR SAIBAS/PHOTO PHOTO



Kennedy was given free reign in the 2003 National Symphony Orchestra Show House kitchen, allowing her to bring in rich Mediterranean detailing that emphasized the elegant architecture of the house (opposite). Unique details such as the caning on the doors and heavy, dark finishes highlight this design style.



© ROSS CHAPRIE



Rich Mediterranean

Built in 1907 by a Flemish architect, the 2003 NSO Designers' Show House came with a strong personality that Kennedy explored without restriction in the kitchen.

"I had been wanting to do something in a Mediterranean style for a long time," Kennedy says. People often recoil with memories of the poorly conceived Mediterranean of the '60s, but the style has been making a new emergence and this Baroque-style home lent itself well to the dark finishes, heavy turning and



metal accents characteristic of true Mediterranean.

Kennedy used stunning finishes that enhanced the beauty of the oak, countering concerns about the room being "too dark." "People had no idea oak could be this gorgeous," she says. An arch detail from the exterior of the house shows up in graceful curves above the stove and on the cabinets, along with barley twist turning, a distinctively Baroque detail.

Metal makes an appearance in the bronze range hood and the hand-forged wrought-iron trim on the cabinetry. The countertops of rustic antique stone were brushed to produce a softer look, and brick shapes cut from granite were stacked for the backsplash by Marblex owner, Mete Yilmaz.

Kennedy designed a unique island with a multi-level system that features permanent counter space for large cutting boards, and two sinks. These functional features were immensely popular with visitors. With an adjoined seating area, four or more people can all be chopping, sampling appetizers or just sipping wine together. "Sometimes it's difficult to sell an idea to a client if they haven't seen it done before," she adds, with the satisfaction of having seen her ideas happily accepted.

RESOURCES

Cabinetry: Premier Custom Built, Inc., New Holland, PA.

Countertops & Tile: Marblex, Design International, Inc., Fairfax, VA.

Furniture & Accessories: Gwen Seidlitz, The Sage Shop, Vienna, VA. **Plumbing Fixtures:** Dans Company, Brandywine, MD.

Appliances: SubZero and Wolf.

Formal dignity

Classic colonial architecture defined the kitchen of this remodeled home. Originally built during the 1930s, the home's exterior is disciplined and with Georgian-style Colonial details. This understated elegance was carried into the family-focused kitchen.

As before, Kennedy approached the kitchen with the design elements that defined the home's exterior and furnishings. Instead of the small, functional kitchen that would have originally been built, this room was designed to reflect the stately nature of the rest of the living spaces. As a central living space, it is as pretty as the living room in its details.



"Everyone congregates in the kitchen, no matter how large or small," emphasizes Kennedy. For this kitchen, everyone primarily included four children, who would all gather together in one space. This brought about the large, roomy island.

The period details that enhance the room are all simple, unfussy architectural features. Keystone arches highlight the range hood and top off the window over the sink. These and other details are in absolute adherence to the character of the house. The final result is an interesting but disciplined room, clean and understated, dedicated to the formality of the home. Even the everyday appliances that have to stay on the counters are tucked into a nook between the refrigerators. The homeowner wanted the counters completely uncluttered and very organized. Much like the organized, tailored exterior of the home. ♦

RESOURCES

Interiors: Julie Beatty, The Grande Finale, Arlington, VA.
Cabinetry: Premier Custom Built, Inc., New Holland, PA.
Appliances: Viking, Miele, Sub-Zero.

Clean, disciplined lines dictate the architecture of this classic Colonial (above). These lines follow through to the kitchen, which celebrates architectural details while maintaining a structured formality (right).



PHOTOS © KENNETH W. WYNER

