



Picture postcard

Designed to maximize a beautiful lake view, this home refurbishment also puts the kitchen in the spotlight

When you have a home with a spectacular outlook, it makes sense to provide maximum exposure to the views from as many rooms as possible.

The house featured on these pages is situated on a lake front – the owners have their own dock and boat shed. Not surprisingly, they wanted to make the most of the view when they remodeled their house. Positioning the family kitchen and adjoining living area to take advantage of the outlook and the sun was a priority.

Architect Lane Williams says the long, lineal arrangement of the kitchen and family room suited the style of the rest of the house. It also provided for extensive decks and an easy indoor-outdoor flow.

“Parts of the deck feature a pergola, creating an extra outdoor room, which is ideal for casual entertaining,” he says.

Williams says the owners also wanted to place an emphasis on the look of their new kitchen.

“Top-of-the-line appliances, quality finishes and well-designed cabinetry were

essential,” he says. “The kitchen is larger than necessary for everyday cooking but ideal for large parties and caterers.”

A long island takes center place in the kitchen. Countertop heights on the island are staggered, providing a surface for food preparation, a bar top and a high countertop for displaying food and accessories.

Williams says the different heights help to break up the mass of the island.

“A single slab of that scale would be quite massive in that space,” he says. “The room was not big enough to make a single



countertop look comfortable. Breaking it down into smaller pieces also provided the opportunity to pay attention to the detailing of the surfaces."

Williams says the different countertop heights create storage nooks and crannies while ensuring the island retains a neat, integrated appearance. A metal backsplash on the island repeats a material used elsewhere in the living area, while the large backsplash behind the freestanding range features limestone tiles.

The choice of rift-cut oak cabinetry,



Facing page: Kitchens today are often designed as part of a larger family living area. This living room features built-in, rift-cut oak cabinetry similar to that used in the kitchen. The beams of the coffered ceiling are in line with the shelving, extending the grid pattern down the walls.

Above and left: A large island with granite countertops at different heights provides a variety of work surfaces. The island is designed so the owners can enjoy the view while cooking. The slatted doors of the overhead cabinetry are a recurring theme on doors throughout the house. They're finished with rice paper sandwiched between glass.





with its straight grain, suited the owners' desire for a refined look. The oak, which is stained to enrich the color of the wood, also features on shelving and cabinetry in the family living area.

Slatted doors on the overhead cabinets are a recurring design theme on doors throughout the house. These feature rice paper, sandwiched between glass panels.

Coffered ceilings in the kitchen and living room provide acoustic insulation and accommodate light fixtures, an integrated sound system and sprinklers.

Architect: Lane Williams, Lane Williams Architects (Seattle)

General contractor: Joseph McKinstry Construction Company

Flooring: American black walnut; limestone tiles from Pratt & Larson Becagli

Doors and windows: Fir from Lindal Building Products

Cabinetry: Cornerstone Fine Woodworking

Countertops: Granite in Absolute Black

Lighting: Ceiling lights: Flos venus; pendant table light: Uno Medusa; pendant island lights: Neihardt 201

Oven: Viking

Refrigerator: Sub-Zero

Faucets: Grohe

Facing page: A large, tiled backsplash is a feature of the rear wall of the kitchen. Architect Lane Williams has designed an easy work triangle, with the refrigerator and oven on the rear wall. A walk-in pantry is situated beyond the far end of the island.

Above: The casual dining area is positioned to capture the lake views.

Photography by Steve Keating