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BEAUTIFUL KITCHENS™

The Ultimate in Elegance

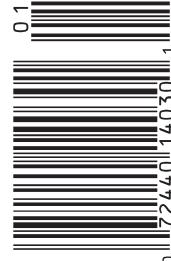
Rich details that make the difference

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KitchenBathIdeas.com

These full-length cabinets on the family room side of the kitchen disguise necessary structural supports and make the large kitchen feel more intimate and inviting.



Paired Perfection

This kitchen doubles its beauty and function with two of nearly everything.

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*M*hat started as a dietary necessity resulted in the perfect pairing of style and function in this kitchen. Marci and Keith Shapiro need two of everything to stay kosher, but they appreciate the symmetry for its entertaining capabilities as well.

The original kitchen in their North Shore Chicago home was too large to be comfy. However, the couple wanted to incorporate the adjacent sunroom in the remodel, which meant the final space would be even larger says kitchen designer Doug Durbin, who teamed up with interior designer Lauren Pappas for the project. "The views and natural light of the sunroom were definitely worth capturing, but the amount of square footage we were ultimately left with made creating intimacy challenging."

Above: Cooking for a crowd is a regular event in the Shapiro home. The cooking alcove contains a built-in steamer and a range with two ovens. The wall adjacent to the range holds a third oven. **Right:** Balancing the cooking hearth between pairs of arched built-ins creates visual balance, explains kitchen designer Doug Durbin. The long island is proportionate to the scale of the room.



Lessons Learned

Kosher kitchens require separate preparation, cooking, and cleanup areas for dairy products and meats. In the Shapiro's kitchen, each of these designated sides is equipped with a dishwasher, double-bowl sink with garbage disposal, and storage for dinnerware, pans, and utensils.

The built-in refrigerator also is divided into sides, one for dairy and the other for meat. Additional refrigerator drawers for vegetables and other foods are located in the island.

For more information on how to make a kitchen kosher, visit hanefesh.com/edu/Kosher_Kitchen.htm.



To accomplish that, Durbin shortened the kitchen by adding a walk-in pantry and coffee bar at one end. He also designed a partition of custom cabinets between the kitchen and what used to be the sunroom. "The built-ins create a visual separation from what now serves as a family room," Durbin says. "The cabinets on the family room side also hide necessary structural supports."

A center island, equipped with a double-bowl sink and a pair of refrigerated drawers, streamlines food preparation. A second double-bowl sink lends entertaining functionality to the bank of cabinets near the family room. A professional-grade range and steamer tuck inside a recessed alcove, creating a step-saving cooking area reminiscent of an old-fashioned hearth.

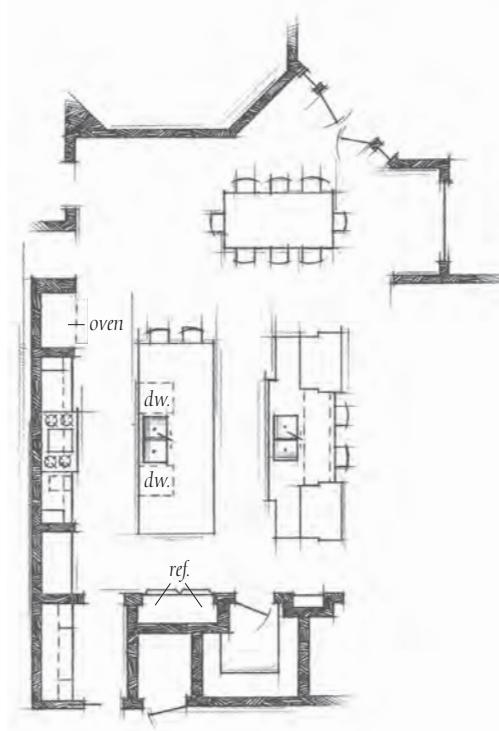
The layout is ideal for two cooks or, in the case of the Shapiros, for kosher cooking. "In a kosher kitchen it's a necessity to keep meat and dairy completely separate, so we had to have two double sinks, two dishwashers, and enough storage for two sets of pots and pans, dishware, and utensils," Marci explains. "The refrigerator is also divided into sides, one for dairy, the other for meat."

Above Left: Corbels flanking the refrigerator doors echo the wide crown molding.

Left: Marci Shapiro keeps countertops clear of gadgets and clutter. This walk-in pantry holds everything from toasters and blenders to canned goods. The refrigerator hides behind what appears to be the doors of a built-in cabinet to the right of the pantry.

Opposite: Custom-made, solid-oak built-ins flank the range. Their arches mimic those found elsewhere in the home.





Installing pairs, from wine refrigerators to the built-ins flanking the refrigerator, also provides an element of balance and symmetry for timeless elegance. The cooking alcove balances the opening into the family room.

"The look is classic and uncomplicated, perfect for casual gatherings," Pappas says. "To keep the room feeling bright but also cozy, we combined richly stained woods with creamy white cabinets and light countertops." Durable quartersawn oak plank floors are stained to resemble rich walnut. The custom island also is made from quartersawn oak. The pale, marble-look countertops are actually quartzite, a natural stone that resembles marble but is more durable and less prone to staining.

The result is an inviting kitchen that functions beautifully for nearly every occasion. "It works as well for several caterers as for when I'm cooking alone," Marci says. "It seems to accommodate whatever I need."

Above Left: A table convenient to both the kitchen work area and the nearby family room provides seating for the family and, when necessary, a few extra guests.

Left: An arched vaulted ceiling creates additional volume in the narrow butler's pantry, which is adjacent to the formal dining room, providing seating for up to 22 people.

Opposite: A pair of undermount, stainless-steel, double-bowl sinks makes it easy to separate utensils used for meats from those used for dairy, a necessity in kosher kitchens.

DESIGNER PICKS

Cabinetry: Custom Manor by Downsview Kitchens; 905/677-9354; downsviewkitchens.com

Countertop: Quartzite; Damar Natural Stone Imports, Inc.; 800/432-6270; damarstone.com

Sinks: Julien, Inc.; 800/461-3377; julien.ca

Pendant lights: Vaughan Designs; 212/319-7070; vaughandesigns.com

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
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