

REGIONAL FEATURE

ORIGINALITY, ARCHES, AND STORAGE A SPECTACULAR KITCHEN REMODEL

PHOTOS | PAUL SANCYA



During their search for the perfect place in which to downsize, homeowners Clyde and Judy Sutton made a drastic change and instead purchased a larger home. Much larger. The home, only a few blocks from their previous home, had been admired by Clyde for years. It had sat vacant for several years, but the pull for Clyde and Judy was something they couldn't ignore. At 12,000 square feet, the couple decided the home could be transformed into the perfect place to accommodate the entire family... kids, grandkids, and dogs alike. With an expansive double lot that offers a beautiful backyard and pool area, they envisioned many family gatherings in years to come. The jump from a 3,500 square foot 1960s Colonial was a move they were ready to make.

Purchased by the Suttons about six years ago, the English Regency-style home was originally built in the 1930s. Renovations began immediately, starting with a complete re-do of the second floor master suite as well as the central stair and hallway, powder room, library, living, and dining rooms. Next came the family room remodel where the key feature, a "kitchen wall," was added. It features an "instant hot" faucet for brewing the perfect cup of tea, making it Clyde's favorite feature. It also includes a refrigerator, drawer microwave, dishwasher, and wine cooler. Initially, the plan was to include an immediate remodel of the main kitchen area, but the Suttons decided a better idea was to live with it as-is for a few years. This helped them to determine exactly what they wanted for changes and updates.

Finally, it was time to tackle the main kitchen area. With their traditionalist style, the Suttons were looking for timeless, classic influences in the renovation. They once again contacted their interior designer, Brian Clay Collins, whose design aesthetic is to create spaces that can't be easily classified. He uses a unique combination of materials, colors, and styles to give rooms the look of having evolved over time. In addition, the Suttons were so happy with the work of Jim Morris owner of J.W. Morris Kitchen & Bath during their family room remodel, there was no question



about bringing him back for this new project. Morris remarked that he enjoys working with Brian because they work well together, and the two agreed to approach this project as an opportunity to create something unique -- not the average, cookie-cutter project. Jim also brought along contractor Steve Makos, of Makos Building Company, for the heavy work. A Master Framer and Carpenter, they knew Steve would be a valued addition to the team.

Going into the kitchen remodel, one of the primary goals was to give the Suttons the seating space they needed in the kitchen and breakfast areas without sacrificing functionality. They also wanted it to become a high-functioning entertaining kitchen with lots of storage, which had been limited in the old design.

Walls were removed, as was the existing large L-shaped island, making way for a smaller, more fitting rectangular island. Exquisite Lemurian Blue Aphrodite granite tops the island, and an overhang was added to allow for more seating. The sink was moved from the island to an outer wall and is framed by a large, arched, box window that was added



to allow a view of the backyard and pool area. A stainless artisan farm sink with bowed front was used to mimic the arches seen throughout the rooms. Countertop and backsplashes are polished Cristallo natural quartz, and Black Absolute granite was used for other surfaces throughout the remodel, delivering style and simple beauty with easy maintenance. Gorgeous cabinetry designed by Jim Morris and constructed by Grabill Cabinet Co. is made from hickory and maple woods with custom paint and stain finishes. High-end appliances including a Wolf gas cooktop, Bosch double ovens, Sub-Zero fridge and freezer, and KitchenAid dishwasher and microwave lend plenty of efficiency when Judy is preparing one of her annual wild game feasts for family and friends. A KitchenAid warming drawer that doubles as a slow cooker is a helpful addition. All appliances, excluding the ovens, have been fully integrated with the cabinets, giving the look of a full wall of cabinetry.

The breakfast room, hearth room, and small office for Judy were updated during the remodel. An old brick chimney wall was uncovered, and, after some discussion, it was decided to leave a portion of it exposed. The bricks are now painted and glazed, offering some great texture to the kitchen. An old slop sink closet was transformed into a functional bar, and removal of a wall created enough space for Judy's office in the area where maids used to eat. With the removal of a back hallway wall, the pantry was enlarged and a food staging area was created adjacent to the dining room.



TIMELESS DESIGN

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A graceful, arched doorway between the breakfast room and hearth room, which is open to the kitchen as well, gives a pleasant, open flow to these three rooms. It has a feeling of one space, yet separate and distinctive. The gorgeous multicolored hand-printed wallcovering in the hearth room (Pheasant, by Twigs) gives the look and feel of an antique book lining. This same wallcovering is used in the breakfast room, the office area, and some parts of the kitchen. This is a piece of the puzzle that Judy says she never would have thought of or considered without Brian's expert eye for design and artistry, and she just loves the uniqueness of it. It further represents the Suttons love of color evidenced in their home, which already featured Chinese red, emerald green, bright yellow, and, now, blue and white Asian and Delft influences. The undersized mantel in the hearth room was revitalized with the addition of a surround of the same Cristallo natural quartz used in the kitchen and a cast-stone mantel.

Coffered ceilings, painted black, are featured throughout these rooms, creating an added feeling of height and significance. As well, oak plank flooring in a medium brown finish flows through the rooms. Plenty of dimmer-enabled, recessed, in-cabinet, and under-cabinet lighting was added to each room to ensure just the right mood can be set, depending on need. Chandeliers were hung for impact, and hardware and fixtures consist of a



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mix of crystal, antique brass, and stainless, adding to the feel of evolution throughout the space.

Large custom built-in wall cabinets and desk units, designed and built by Morris with assistance on installation by Makos, again add much-needed storage space and practicality. The cabinets are finished with both black paint and wood stain finishes, in keeping with the sleek style and beauty of the home and mirroring the finish of the coffered ceilings. Brilliant natural light fills the breakfast room, where mock Roman shades were added to dress up the windows.

While the exterior has remained unchanged, the interior of this home has been completely transformed. Judy says she has a hard time selecting a favorite feature of the remodel, but the coffered ceilings, the granite on the new kitchen island, the new fireplace mantel, and unique wallpaper are all items at the top of her list.

In the end, the Suttons are extremely happy with the results of this major remodel project and the team who made it happen. Judy stresses that selecting an experienced designer and building contractor who share your views and styles - along with planning and patience - is the key to a successful project and to keeping your sanity. □



BRIAN CLAY COLLINS DESIGNS, LLC

Brian Clay Collins is an accomplished designer and a fellow of the American Society of Interior Designers, a distinction given to only two other design professionals in the state of Michigan and 200 nationwide. This highest level of membership is achieved by nomination and judged based on professional experience and contributions to the society and to the community at large. With over 30 years of design experience, Brian's work can be described as classic, not faddish or trendy, and will age well. He enjoys the unexpected and feels "it's the mix that makes it memorable."

Collins volunteers time toward the historic preservation efforts for the campus buildings of the Bay View Association of the United Methodist Church, a national historic landmark community on Little Traverse Bay near Petoskey. Founded in 1875, it incorporates some 450 summer homes built between 1875 and the 1920s. Brian's favorite thing to do in his down time is to read a good book in a quiet room with a water view, in a comfortable chair, listening to good music with a fire in the grate. Based in Grosse Pointe, Brian maintains clientele throughout the Midwestern region along with Arizona, Florida, and Pennsylvania.

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J.W. MORRIS KITCHEN & BATH, INC.

J.W. Morris Kitchen & Bath, Inc. is a family owned full service design and remodeling firm with showrooms in Grosse Pointe and Harbor Springs. For over 20 years, we have specialized in high quality kitchen and bath designs, and continue to pride ourselves on personalized layouts, quality products, and timely installations.

The company was founded by James W. Morris Sr., CKD, a third generation Kitchen and Bath Designer, who majored in Construction Supervision and Management at Western Michigan University. He began his career in the kitchen and bath industry in 1986, and by 1997 had established his own design and remodeling firm. In 1991, he achieved his accreditation as a Certified Kitchen Designer, as well as being a licensed Building Contractor in the state of Michigan.

J.W. Morris Kitchen & Bath have designed homes in Michigan, Florida, Illinois, the Caribbean Islands, and throughout the Midwest. James leads a skilled design team that is able to bring his clients' ideas

and dreams to life. Specializing in kitchens, bathrooms, bars, libraries, home offices, and home entertainment rooms their certified designers can bring the room you envision to fruition.

With over 30 years of combined experience in the kitchen and bath field, we have become one of Michigan's leading design and construction firms. Our commitment is to provide you with cutting edge designs, innovative products, and exceptional customer service.

Please stop by one of our beautiful showroom locations or visit our website to see our custom handcrafted cabinets, inspired displays, and the exceptional attention to detail in every kitchen and bath that we create.

CONTACT INFORMATION: 17864 Mack Ave, Grosse Pointe, MI 48230 | (313) 886-4898 | MorrisKitchenandBath.com



MAKOS BUILDING COMPANY

For 30 years, Steve Makos has been fulfilling dreams for hundreds of satisfied customers in Southeast Michigan. Steve was raised in Grosse Pointe and graduated from Grosse Pointe South High School. He has raised his family in the Pointes and is a regular in the community, coaching his children's teams as well as assisting with charitable activities and mission work with the Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church.

Steve started his career in carpentry working for many of the area's top carpentry and home building companies. With over 30 years of experience as a Master Carpenter and Builder, Steve knows the language and has the skills to create your dream home or renovation. He prides himself on the company he has built, where each carpenter in his organization is a graduate of the Association Builders Contractors School (ABC), a four-year apprenticeship program for carpentry. Steve's team of highly experienced tradesmen bring "Peace of Mind" to each project they handle. Whether it's new home construction or a kitchen renovation, you will have the confidence it will be done right.

Makos Builders offers a "Peace of Mind Policy" that is built on: TRUST - Makos Builders is centered on the integrity of Steve's work and confidence the job will exceed expectations from start to finish. PRICE - Guaranteed estimates based on our experience and knowledge. SATISFACTION - Project completion on agreed-upon date. QUALITY - All projects built with superior workmanship with focus on every attention to detail; there are no short cuts. DEPENDABILITY - five year Guarantee. Your happiness is our success.

Satisfaction, quality craftsmanship, and dependability - Makos Builders has built its foundation on these attributes for the past 30 years. Steve is proud to have worked in the Pointes and Southeast Michigan with his team of professionals, with hundreds of satisfied customers of whom many, he is proud to say, are friends and neighbors.

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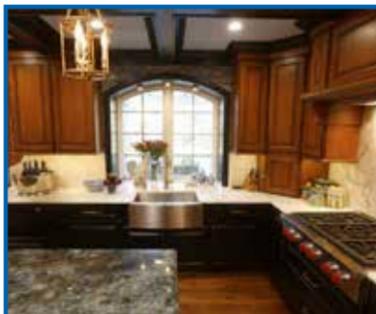
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