



Two Worlds, One Kitchen: WHEN CLASSIC MEETS CONTEMPORARY

BY BARBARA RAMSAY ORR

THE FIRST IMPRESSION OF THIS SPOTLESS KITCHEN IS OF SPACE, LIGHT AND HARMONY. EVERYTHING SEEMS TO FIT, EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE ELEMENTS JUXTAPOSED THAT DON'T NORMALLY PLAY TOGETHER. THE MARRIAGE WORKS, HOWEVER, AS A RESULT OF CAREFUL DESIGN, QUALITY WORKMANSHIP AND A CREATIVE UNDERSTANDING OF THE AESTHETICS OF BLENDING STYLES.

When the clients first discussed their kitchen design with K Design, they had two important and unique imperatives. First, they wanted to incorporate some of their treasured traditional furniture pieces with a more contemporary design. Second, they loved the vaulted ceiling in the kitchen space and wanted the cabinetry to follow the line of the vault.

K Design Custom Cabinetry was prepared to meet both of those requests.

The firm is a family run business, started by Karl Fabris in 1991 and carried on today with his son, Emilio. It has established a reputation for quality work both in the retail design space,

and with new home construction and contractors. Their team of designers are highly knowledgeable, all with more than 15 years of design experience, and the firm can create, duplicate or source any interior design elements a customer may request.

"There is really no limit to the level of customization we can provide," Emilio explains, "but we remain reasonably priced. If a customer is shopping for a high-end kitchen, we stand out in that we do that calibre of work, but it is affordable. We are not a 'big box' kind of store – we provide quality work at good value." Their business is based primarily on referral, has won the Readers Choice

awards for five years in a row and is Baeumler-approved.

Isabel Beattie, one of the firm's senior designers, took up the challenge of integrating the client's traditional furniture with a contemporary aesthetic. The result is a kitchen that is the embodiment of what is now called transitional style.

Transitional style is "a blend of traditional and contemporary styles, midway between old world traditional and the world of chrome and glass contemporary; incorporating lines that are less ornate than traditional designs, but not as severely basic as contemporary lines." The result is classic, timeless, and clean. >



THE ROLLING LADDER IS A BRILLIANT BRIDGE BETWEEN CLASSIC AND CONTEMPORARY.

in both worlds, with a modern feel but a classic shape. The stove is an impressive Dacor six burner gas range, in gleaming stainless but with the heft of a farmhouse oven. The wood floor adds warmth, along with a clean unfussy surface.

The stove hood is a focal point of the kitchen and again the elements are a combination of contemporary and classic. The steel hood is custom painted to match the cabinets, but has a gentle curve that softens the edges and blends with other curvatures in the room.

The rolling ladder is a brilliant bridge between classic and contemporary. Referencing the tradition of formal libraries, where a moveable ladder was used to access the books from upper shelves, this one has adopted the crisp white of the cabinets as well as polished stainless rails and trim. In contrast, the details on the rails, the fittings and decorative footings on the ladder, are very traditional. The upper cupboards work as easily accessible storage areas for seasonal items, large pots or bulk storage. And every single cabinet you open has an extra pull out or insert to make the kitchen more functional. There is also a pantry that doubles as a bar.

The second request from the clients – that the vault be preserved and the cabinets be made to follow the vault – was a bit more of a challenge. It meant that doors had to be angled to fit the vault line, and cupboards had to be custom designed to reach all the way up to the height of the 14-foot ceiling but still remain proportional. “We hadn’t done an install like this before,” Emilo explains, “but we never say no.” The design and installation required extra thought and care, but the results were exactly right.

K Design builds custom cabinetry of any kind, from kitchens to wine cellars to walk in closets, and does custom installations in an area that stretches from Ancaster to Mississauga, as well as reaching as far as Muskoka. “We’ve loaded our trucks onto barges and installed kitchens in remote cottages,” Emilo says.

This timeless kitchen achieves the perfect balance between the world of modern contemporary convenience and classic traditional comfort. It’s a place where family can gather for casual meals at the island, or for formal dinners in the dining area, and both styles feel right at home. It’s an expertly crafted balance of two worlds. ▀



> Beattie began by listening to the clients’ vision for the finished kitchen. She then provided the professional guidance and advice that would help them make that vision come to life.

To marry the classic elements with a more contemporary look, Beattie selected components that would combine both worlds. To balance the hard edges of the cabinet windows, curved mullions were added to soften the hard lines.

The white marble countertops and Chantilly Lace white cabinets were softened with the addition of a gentle grey, in a shade called Thundercloud, both on the island and on the interiors of the cupboards, to tie the elements together and create a harmonious unity.

The contemporary pot lights were augmented with graceful pendant lights that incorporate patterned glass in a classic shape with the contemporary punch of chrome. A Franke farmhouse apron sink has a foot