



JANE LOCKHART

INSIDE & OUT

A 30-year-old kitchen and exterior landscape get a California-style make-over optimizing views and lifestyle



The desk, and seating nook offer great views of both the kitchen and the backyard.

You get to know a thing or two about a house after living in it for 30 years. For my clients, Sue and Lou who love to cook and entertain and be outdoors, their house had served them well. The lot was a great size and the 30-year-old trees were now stately and full, so moving wasn't a consideration, but they knew it all needed some fine-tuning.

As world travellers, they knew they loved the Mediterranean and California lifestyle of simple indoor-outdoor living. Their backyard was substantial and had a built-in pool, cabana, outdoor kitchen and covered wood-fired barbecue/roasting oven. But inside, the small kitchen felt cut off from the yard and view by the covered deck.

A renovation was in order to enlarge the kitchen, but because we needed to preserve the concrete roof tiles — the Marley roof couldn't be replaced — we had to dig out from underneath it while propping the roof in place. The area under the original covered porch was incorporated into a larger, eat-in kitchen and the walls became windows to the outdoors.

PHOTOGRAPHY: GILLIAN JACKSON



LET THERE BE LIGHT

Because a great cooking and entertaining space was at the top of their wish list, we knew we wanted the home to be breezy and light-filled, and to take full advantage of the southern exposure. A Nana wall was installed because it tidily folds away, offering the perfect solution to access the outdoors. The original skylights were preserved and with new, larger windows, boundless light now floods into the space.

COHESIVE CONNECTIONS

Once the renovation was underway, the homeowners decided to upgrade the backyard, too. They resurfaced the pool and pool deck. Lou is a passionate golfer so he had a one-hole putting green installed on one side of the yard. Light-coloured Travertine paving stones lift and brighten the backyard, and a taupe solid stain helps blend out the building structures, allowing the pool and greenery to stand out. The trick was to continue the feeling from indoors to out, so we chose white oak flooring in a light colour to blur the lines between them.



BEFORE: The goal was to enclose and incorporate the covered back deck into a larger kitchen. The interlocking brick was replaced with large platform travertine pavers.

ABOVE LEFT:

White oak floors, cream-coloured cabinetry and integrated appliances soften the look of a hard-working space.

ABOVE RIGHT:

The Marley roof tiles were kept intact and the extension grew under it.

Custom details like the vent hood and backsplash personalize and enhance a kitchen.



A KITCHEN WITH A VIEW

The kitchen went from a small, dark space to an expansive, chef's kitchen with plenty of room to hang out and enjoy all the views. The custom-designed kitchen by Downsview Kitchens, addresses all the homeowners' needs. Creamy white cabinetry and backsplash tile are enhanced by the natural quartz countertops. When you walk in, your eye is immediately drawn out to the backyard and the kitchen recedes as part of the furnishings.

ENTERTAINING MADE EASY

We created a servery adjacent to the main cooking area where counter, sink, bar fridges, liquor cabinet and cooler drawers are accessible. Guests could help themselves in the kitchen without getting in the way of the prep and cooking.

A large island accommodates the kitchen sinks, expansive prepping area and counter seating for guests. I'm not a fan of the work triangle theory, which came about after the Second World War and was practical at the time. Now we work in zones: store, chill, prep, cook and clean. I like to design kitchens, so you don't have to cross the cooking zone to get to the fridge, keeping the zones separate but nearby.

We incorporated a desk area to rein in any paper clutter and placed it next to the new glass door that leads to the outdoor kitchen. The seating nook is a cosy, glassed-in area that gets you as close to the pool as possible without leaving the house. Swivel chairs make it easy to take in every angle, the whole view, outside and in.

Now that their wish list is complete, the homeowners live in a resort-like atmosphere, that they can appreciate every day. They didn't bargain on the fact that I would be at their door every hot summer day for a swim, but they'll get used to me. ♦



The view from the kitchen draws the eye right through to the backyard.



LEFT: A servery addresses many needs, especially if you entertain a lot. This self-serve bar is a great way to keep guests, nearby but not in the way in the kitchen.

RIGHT: A waterfall adds to the beauty and nature with its hypnotic soundtrack.

SOURCES KITCHEN: custom kitchen, custom colour, Downsview Kitchens **APPLIANCES:** Miele **OVENS, DISHWASHER:** Sub-Zero, Wolf **BAR FRIDGE, REFRIGERATOR:** Wolf **INDUCTION COOKTOP:** Caplan's **GLASS WALL SYSTEM:** NanaWall System **TABLE AND CHAIRS:** Wormwood maple table and custom chairs Brice's **COUNTERTOP:** natural quartz, Dolce Vita from Interstone **PAINT: WALLS:** Plaster of Paris CSP-185, Benjamin Moore **TRIM & CEILING:** Oxford White CC-30, Benjamin Moore **FLOORING:** White Oak, Nautilus from Vintage Prefinished Hardwood Flooring

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