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Dream Kitchen

HOW ONE FAMILY'S WISH LIST CAME TRUE, RESULTING IN A FABULOUS KITCHEN

BY EVELYN ESHUN | PHOTOS BY LARRY ARNAL

The kitchen is truly the heart of any home and, as a designer, I love the challenge of creating a wonderful kitchen space. This latest kitchen project was part of a large renovation we completed for a young family of five, living in a wonderful home where the father of the family grew up. It was a privilege to transform his childhood home, filled with so many memories, and update it with modern amenities appropriate for his own bustling family.

The kitchen was where the whole renovation began and it set the tone for how the home would perform for this busy, growing family. It had to be welcoming and very functional for a family who regularly cooks together. Their wish list was long, and we worked hard to find innovative, creative solutions to make this the kitchen of their dreams. Installing classic, cream-coloured, honed limestone flooring from the front of the house right through to the kitchen connects the areas harmoniously and makes the space feel large and expansive. The warm white cabinetry throughout the kitchen adds a bright and fresh feeling.

A tremendous amount of space was created by extending the back of the house by about eight feet, allowing for a very large island where the three kids can help prep or watch Mom and Dad cook.





The homeowner strongly insisted that we put the one and only sink in the island and make the area under the window (the usual location for the kitchen sink) a zone for baking and food prep. Now she can roll out her pastries while looking out at the family garden! This area also houses a beverage fridge which is next to a desk work area. I love this layout because a little helper can read next to mom while she preps. The additional shelving and cubby holes allow easy access to things like cookbooks - and it doubles as a homework area!

Squeezing a walk-in pantry into a 4x4 corner was important for this family that adores baking and entertaining large groups of friends. I designed a custom-

leaded art glass for the door opening into this space. We tucked the family's cappuccino and espresso area (wish list items for these avid entertainers) between the large refrigerator and the pantry. It holds everything you need, such as cups, cutlery and appliances, to make a fantastic coffee. I know this, because I've been lucky enough to have some good times laughing and chatting over an espresso with my clients.

We selected a large table, which can seat up to 10 people, prominently situated under a chandelier that would normally be found in a dining room. The home does have a formal dining room, but it was important to make this kitchen a beautiful space where everyone can gather

and be comfortable. I love the solid wood pedestal table in this spot because you can see it from the front door - and it beckons you into this wonderful kitchen. Since the family room is adjacent to the sitting area, we incorporated a three-sided fireplace between the two rooms, adding a perfect luxurious and warm feeling to the area.

This project was a real pleasure to work on and the relationships built through the process will last forever. This timeless and family-friendly kitchen is exactly what the family wanted and more, which is the best result I could ask for.

- TIPS :**
- Large tiles in a honed finish are easy to maintain and safer than a glossy surface.
 - Using chandeliers in a large open space helps to define an area.
 - Additional electrical outlets are always a welcome feature in a busy kitchen.
 - A beverage fridge frees up space in the main fridge in a busy family home.
 - Ensure adequate task lighting is incorporated for cooking and reading.

Kitchen by Selva Kitchen and Bath | Table and Chairs from Woodcraft | Tiles from Marble Granite Depot | Credit: Toronto-based, accredited and award winning Designer Evelyn Eshun is the Principal of Evelyn Eshun Design. For nearly two decades, Eshun has been celebrated for her custom designed residential projects, transforming client's spaces into personal showcases.