



removing two walls to open up the kitchen, dining and living spaces, while creating room for a mudroom off the garage leading to the kitchen and a butler's pantry that is a focal point of the space. This feature is one way the design brought history into the space. (Many owners choose to eliminate the butler's pantry.)

Ozan calls the butler's pantry "the jewelry box" because it's a special place for serving ware and dishes. Amish, custom cabinets painted in Galveston Gray contrast white 3-by-12-inch subway tile that is carried through to inside some of the glass-front cabinets.

A generous 8-foot-wide island includes a dramatic Alba Vera marble waterfall edge, yet the timeless surface's subtle veining makes the central feature classic. Its base carries the same rich, deep-blue painted wood that's also found on a custom food pantry that gives the family the space they need for storage. In the galley kitchen space, white cabinets carry some of the molding detail found in the dining room blended with clean-line, flat-front doors. "It's the perfect blend of modern and clean, with intricate details of molding," Ozan says of giving a nod to the home's history.

Schwarz adds that the kitchen's windows were finished with fluted casings, a detail borrowed from 1930s design. And, custom plaster crown moldings were created to duplicate the ones found in the dining room. Where a wall was removed, the team constructed an arch that mirrors the home's original detail found at another entryway.

Thermador appliances finished with cabinetry allow them to blend in seamlessly with the space, and a custom-designed hood punctuates the range. Flanking the stove space are floating shelves.

"The design solution is so appropriate, it looks like the kitchen could have been this way all along, and that's really fulfilling to us," Ozan says, noting that the careful planning allowed for a smooth process. "The floor plan is more open, there's better flow with how we move around the house and all the natural light is filtering in."

Schwarz adds, "There is nothing cookie-cutter about the design. Everything about it is custom and their vision." — KH

7

Honoring Tradition

R.B. Schwarz Inc.

WHEN CONNIE OZAN and her husband Michael bought their 1935 Georgian in Shaker Heights nine years ago, they saw potential in a kitchen with layers of linoleum and aged cabinets. "The house had great bones and good light," says Ozan. "We really value every level of craft — we value the creative process."

The Ozans own Twist Creative, an advertising agency in Cleveland. Renovating their kitchen has literally been a dream since they moved into the home. "We had an eye for what we hoped to do, and we really enjoy projects like this — every step," she relates.

The Ozans did a Band-Aid remodel in the kitchen when they moved in, painting the original cabinets, peeling off the linoleum to reveal white oak floors and hanging more lighting. Ozan describes the result as "kitschy vintage," which worked for some time. But entertaining in the space

was always a challenge. "There was a big divide, with people in the kitchen and living room — there was no center where everyone could be together," she says. "We also needed more functionality: better storage and better flow, while maintaining the integrity of the home."

Honoring the house was one of the most important goals of the project. Although Ozan describes their design aesthetic as "warm modern," she emphasizes, "We didn't want to make it too modern where it wasn't classic. And, we also didn't want this kitchen to look like a museum."

The Ozans enlisted the help of Robert Schwarz, general contractor of R.B. Schwarz Inc., and architect Sharon Sanders of SKS Designs. Schwarz says, "Our tagline is, 'Historic homes, modern families,' and that is truly what we were doing here."

Sanders' design called for

NUTS & BOLTS

HOME ADDRESS:

2686 Ashley Road,
 Shaker Heights

CONTRACTOR INFORMATION:

R.B. Schwarz Inc.,
 12944 S. Woodside
 Drive, Chesterland,
 440-729-2480,
 rbschwarzinc.com

PROJECT FOCUS:

Kitchen Remodel

