

PERFECTION *by design*



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Hearing the word “kitchen” inevitably evokes warm images of sunny breakfasts, ambrosial scents, and cordial togetherness; but when you have a family to manage and a passion for entertaining, a tight, outdated kitchen will never meet your standards of ideal functionality or comfort. For Scott and Jenny Frailey, the revitalization of the kitchen in their 1930s Tudor-style home had breached the line between mere desire and necessity. “We knew it was time to upgrade,” Jenny said. “This is our forever home, so we wanted to do everything perfectly.”

The Fraileys hired David Lyall, local Interior Designer and owner of Buck Home located south of Lancaster, and Eileen Riddle, Certified Kitchen Designer and owner of Kitchens by Eileen, to manage their renovation and redesign project. “David had remodeled our summer home in Seabrook Island, SC, so when my husband and I decided we were ready to upgrade our home here, hiring David was a ‘no-brainer,’” Jenny said. “David then introduced us to Eileen and we got started!”

Since the era and architecture of the Fraileys’ Tudor home is so distinct, both the designers and homeowners agreed that respecting the style of the home would lead them on the path to the right kitchen design. “Throughout the project, we kept reminding ourselves of what we needed to accomplish—maintaining the feeling that the kitchen could have always been. It drove all of our design decisions,” Lyall said.

by **Eleisha Cutts**
Freelance Writer



To remain faithful to the architecture of the house and mimic the peaked arch niches incorporated throughout, Lyall and Riddle chose to install a Gothic-style peaked arch window in the kitchen. “We wanted to make sure that we used materials that reflected what could have been,” Lyall explained. “We used honed granite, which looks like soapstone with a low luster, on the countertops.” Riddle added, “We also used double-stacked quartz, which simulates Carrera marble but won’t stain as easily, on the island.” To enhance the dated atmosphere of the kitchen, the designers selected white subway tiles with a crackle glaze for the backsplash. “The tiles look old,” Lyall said. “Up close, they look like they’ve been there forever and we just preserved them.”

But beauty is only skin deep. The Fraileys’ active family also required



practicality and convenience. “Functionality was an important focus in the project,” Riddle said. “Jenny likes to entertain a lot, so she needed a design



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that would allow her to do so with ease. We created several storage solutions, such as the hutch. While it’s absolutely gorgeous, it’s also very functional.” Lyall added, “Although

all the items in that butler pantry-like hutch are decorative and beautiful, they’re all things Jenny uses when she entertains. Now, rather than having to

go into the basement or dig into cabinets, everything is right there for her to use.”

Convenience did not always lend itself to the renovation process, however. A laundry chute, vital to Jenny, presented the designers with a challenge in space planning. “The laundry chute ran along the back wall, and I absolutely did not



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want to give it up,” Jenny said. “My laundry was in the basement, so I used the chute every day. David, Eileen and I kept asking ourselves, ‘How do we make it look pretty?’” As it turned out, the despised Jacuzzi tub in Scott and Jenny’s master bedroom provided the solution. “Eileen came up with the grand plan,” David said. “Jenny used to say she dreamed about the day when that Jacuzzi would be torn out of her bedroom. Eileen said, ‘The plumbing is already there; why don’t we take out the Jacuzzi and put in a laundry room?’” Jenny was thrilled with the idea. “I thought it was brilliant!” she said. “We were able to take out the chute, which really opened up the kitchen, and now I have the laundry right off of my bedroom—it’s very efficient.”



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Adding on a mudroom was also on the top of Scott and Jenny’s to-do list. “I constantly had mud and leaves being tracked into my kitchen from the back door,” Jenny recalled. “It was a nightmare!” Riddle created a transitional space for the Frailey family in the new mudroom, adding cubbies for the children’s belongings and a designated space for Scott and Jenny’s as well. “It’s very important for clients today to have that initial place of rest where they can just drop their things and say ‘I’m home!’”, Riddle said.

With the added warmth of color, the Fraileys’ house was certainly transformed into a more inviting home. “When Eileen and I first met with Scott and Jenny in their home, we noticed that everything was painted white in order to compensate for the lacking natural light due to the small windows and trees outside. There’s a common misconception that if a room has low natural light, you should paint it white, but that’s the last thing you want to do; it will make a room colder and starker,” Lyall explained. “My belief is that enveloping an entire space in color will make the boundaries of a room disappear.” Initially, Jenny hesitated when she saw the color Lyall had chosen to liven up her first floor. “I decided to trust David, and he just nailed it. The golden-tan color adds so much warmth and brightness to the house,” Jenny said.



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This wasn’t the only instance in which Jenny hesitated about an idea but ultimately put her trust in the designers. “I love painting ceilings the same color as the walls,” Lyall said, “but in the kitchen, I realized I already had a lot of solid colors in the cabinets, the countertops, and the floor. I wanted to integrate some patterns, so I thought of picking out a wall covering with the same background color as the wall paint and putting it on the ceiling. That way we could wrap the entire room in color and incorporate a pattern. At first, Jenny said, ‘I don’t know about this,’ but she trusted me and was used to my thinking outside the box. It draws your attention up, and makes the room feel bigger.”

Lyall and Riddle wanted to maintain consistency throughout the first floor remodel, utilizing the same paint color through-

out and refinishing the existing hardwood floors and laying down new custom flooring in the kitchen to match. “Because the Fraileys’ home was built in 1932, it’s very compartmentalized,” Lyall explained. “The last thing we wanted to do was make the kitchen feel even more separate. By using the same color story and matching the hardwood floors throughout, we took an old footprint and made it updated and seamless. There’s no stop and start—it’s consistent the whole way around.” Jenny agreed, “The house feels larger and more open now with everything flowing together. It’s more sophisticated.”

Not only did the Fraileys’ remodel inspire new warmth and comfort, but it offered a change in lifestyle. “My kitchen is the center of our home now. Before, no one ever wanted to

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be in the kitchen!" Jenny admitted. "Now it's more conducive to entertaining. My kids sit at the island and work on art projects or watch TV while I'm cooking. I love my Wolf range! It's amazing how having first-rate appliances gives you so much more confidence as to what you can accomplish in the kitchen."

Equally important to the Fraileys was the experience of renovating. "We just went with the flow of construction and remodeling," Jenny said. "I was so excited that I just always kept my mind on the end result. I stayed open-minded and didn't have a deadline—I just wanted to get it right. I knew we would, because we worked with the best people.

I called them my 'dream design team.' Everyone was just crazy talented!" In reflecting on the renovation process, her dream team, and the picture-perfect results, Jenny said, "It was such a fun project. I'm ready for the next one!"

R&A



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