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from house to HOME

Majestic Mansion

Inside This Historic Bellefonte B&B

Bring On The Buffet With Christopher Lowell

Functional Art

Rediscovering The Kitchen Island

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A Gourmet's *Dream*

text | Sandie Biddle
images | Gene Maylock

Floral arrangements by Woodrings
Floral Gardens. Accessories &
small appliances from Kitchen
Kaboodle & Kaboodle At Home.



When a custom builder of fine homes designs his own, you can bet that no resource is spared. Nebil Orkan is the owner of Premiere Homes—and the homeowner of an exceptionally stunning house in Bear Meadows outside of Boalsburg.

In 2004, the Orkan home earned Best Kitchen and Best Master Bedroom awards in the local builders' association Parade of Homes. One look at the kitchen will tell you why it's an award winner. The design is elegantly engineered. A closer look will show you just how much difference details can make for foodies, gourmets, and party givers.

Where most gourmet kitchens sport a kitchen island, the Orkan kitchen has two. What appears to be a deep-well sink in the corner of the counter nearest the refrigerator is actually a built-in steamer. We'll call that the serving island, with plenty of room to arrange a buffet. The Gaggenau steamer has a faucet perched above it for filling and two knobs at the side—one to open and close the drain, the other to dial up low, medium, and high heat.

The other island is for the sinks and dishwasher. The Kohler Professional unit has a deep rectangular sink, a smaller prep sink with disposal, and a side drain platform. The whisper-quiet Thermador dishwasher is to the right of the sink, and is made of gleaming stainless steel, like all the other appliances.

To the left of the refrigerator is a beverage center, with built-in wine rack on the far left and a built-in espresso center next to it. The Miele espresso/cappuccino maker is programmable, so the owners' morning beverages are ready when they awake. Underneath the dual steamers is a warming drawer to keep coffeecake, croissants, or stickies toasty.

Between the beverage center and the fridge is a glass-front cabinet with three shelves for displaying special glassware and china.

The 48-inch SubZero 690 model side-by-side refrigerator has three crispers, plenty of

shelves, and a programmable panel for temperature control. There are ice and water dispensers in the front. To the right of the refrigerator is the double-doored pantry, with three, deep, solid maple roll-out drawers.

You'll find more of these rollout drawers here and there in the custom cabinets, to prevent stooping and kneeling. There's another under the range top for pots and pans, a deep trash receptacle by the sink, and a three-shelf spice rack to the right of the range.

According to Pete Popovich, sales manager for Mikes Video, TV & Appliances, who supplied all the appliances for the Orkan home, "The gas range top is by Thermador, as is the double oven. The ovens are European convection; the top one is also a combo full-size microwave." There are two red warming lights in the range top.

The kitchen was accessorized by the Orkans—with a few lovely touches provided by Kitchen Kaboodle and Kaboodle at Home of State College. The samovar is an everyday appliance used by the Orkans. Kaboodle provided the Jonathon Adler ceramics, Vietri cobalt blue vases, All-Clad stainless cookware, chafing dish, and 800-watt, Viking 5-Q professional mixer. The fresh floral arrangements were complements of Woodrings Floral Gardens of Bellefonte and State College.

The maple cabinets were custom made by Lewistown Cabinets—solid maple covered in shades of gray with pewter hardware. The pretty cornice-work at the corners of the islands gives it a neo-classical touch. Dreamstones, a division of Premiere Homes, supplied the black granite countertops.

The lighting is sleek and modern, much



in Penn State blue and white. There are hanging halogen spots over the islands and breakfast nook, plus six recessed spots nearer the cabinet perimeter. These were supplied by The Hite Company.

The graceful Kohler fixtures have detachable spray nozzles that come out of the swanlike necks. Crescent Supply was the Kohler source for the Orkan's kitchen fixtures and for the spectacular bathroom pedestal sinks, whirlpool bath, and huge glass-walled, walk-in shower.

The wood floors are remarkable shades of warm pinks, red-browns, and golds. The kitchen is Bolivian rosewood, a lighter shade than the deep-dark rosewood used in fine cabinetry. The breakfast nook flooring is Brazilian cherry—in indescribable shades of deep rich reds and browns.

Popovich, in what may be considered an understatement, commented on the Orkan kitchen, "They really did a good job of design. It looks great."

And look great, it does. It also functions very, very well. This is truly a kitchen a connoisseur can love—and any home cook would die for. |



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