

Kitchen & Bath Business

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF KBIS



Space for Everyone



In redesigning this grand home in Southern California, Courtney Thomas of La Cañada, Calif.-based Courtney Thomas Design took advantage of the square footage available to create family- and guest-oriented spaces inside.



Share



Source List

Designer: Courtney Thomas

Photographer: Stephanie Wiley

Kitchen:

Backsplash Tile: Ann Sacks

Cabinetry: Eldemar Dentzuky from Trade Custom Cabinet

Cooktop: Wolf

Dishwashers: KitchenAid

Double Ovens and Warming

Drawer: Wolf

Faucet: Newport Brass

Fridge/Freezer: Sub-Zero

Island Lighting: Regina Andrew

Range Hood Liner: Wolf

Sink: Kohler

Master Bath:

Cabinetry: Eldemar Dentzuky from Trade Custom Cabinets

Shower Faucet: Moen

Sink: Kohler

Sink Faucet: Moen

Tile: Foothill Tile and Stone

Tub: Aquatic

Tub Faucet: Moen

Mudroom:

Cabinetry: Fernando Reyes from Finish Time Cabinets

Sink: Kohler

Sink Faucet: Moen

July 23, 2018

Having an abundance of space with which to work can sometimes be as much of a challenge to redesign as having a small amount of square footage. For one 9,000-sq.-ft. home in Southern California, Courtney Thomas of La Cañada, Calif.-based Courtney Thomas Design was tasked with taking advantage of the grand spaces and creating the ideal entertaining and family house.

"Given the openness of the kitchen and height of the ceilings, I thought the space had great potential," said Thomas. "I knew we could spice it up with some architectural drama."

Challenges in the Kitchen

The initial plan from the design team called for an oversized island, truncated upper cabinets and no ceiling detail. Montrose, Calif.-based Stoddard Architects, who were working closely with Thomas on the project, suggested instead installing two islands to give the family more horizontal work space and lower cabinet storage.

Using AutoCAD for elevations and layouts, the team then added coffered ceilings and dropped a soffit around the perimeter of the space; that way the upper cabinets didn't stretch to the unreachable 10-ft. ceiling height. In building the coffered ceiling, however, some additional challenges arose.

"If you look closely, the islands aren't actually centered in the room," said Thomas. "Aligning the coffered ceiling required a great deal of planning to make the islands look not only centered over the islands but also between the perimeter counters and evenly spaced from the ceiling beams in the family room."

Another challenge was choosing the directional run of the hardwood floors in the kitchen. They needed to run throughout the main floor, which includes both perpendicular and parallel spaces.

"We ultimately opted to run the flooring parallel to the house's wingspan and along the main hallways, which would have suffered the most from a directional mistake," said the designer.

Warm and White

The original plans called for stained cabinetry, but Thomas found that the clients' inspiration photos were mainly of white kitchens. They decided instead on Shaker-style, white-painted cabinet doors with thin inset molding for the majority of the storage. The very top cabinets, which are glass front and lit internally, break up with space.

"I fought for those to be lit," said Thomas, explaining that the homeowner didn't believe she could use them until she found some plates she was proud to display there. "I love the lights in those cabinets because they add warmth and draw your eye up to the ceiling drama."

Kitchen & Bath Business

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF KBIS

Island Lighting: Regina
Andrew

Range Hood Liner: Wolf
Sink: Kohler

Master Bath:

Cabinetry: Eldemar Dentzuky
from Trade Custom Cabinets

Shower Faucet: Moen

Sink: Kohler

Sink Faucet: Moen

Tile: Foothill Tile and Stone

Tub: Aquatic

Tub Faucet: Moen

Mudroom:

Cabinetry: Fernando Reyes
from Finish Time Cabinets

Sink: Kohler

Sink Faucet: Moen

"If you look closely, the islands aren't actually centered in the room," said Thomas. "Aligning the coffered ceiling required a great deal of planning to make the islands look not only centered over the islands but also between the perimeter counters and evenly spaced from the ceiling beams in the family room."

Another challenge was choosing the directional run of the hardwood floors in the kitchen. They needed to run throughout the main floor, which includes both perpendicular and parallel spaces.

"We ultimately opted to run the flooring parallel to the house's wingspan and along the main hallways, which would have suffered the most from a directional mistake," said the designer.

Warm and White

The original plans called for stained cabinetry, but Thomas found that the clients' inspiration photos were mainly of white kitchens. They decided instead on Shaker-style, white-painted cabinet doors with thin inset molding for the majority of the storage. The very top cabinets, which are glass front and lit internally, break up with space.

"I fought for those to be lit," said Thomas, explaining that the homeowner didn't believe she could use them until she found some plates she was proud to display there. "I love the lights in those cabinets because they add warmth and draw your eye up to the ceiling drama."

Kitchen & Bath Business

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF KBIS

From Cavernous to Cozy

Similar to the kitchen, the bathroom was spacious, however, the house next door was being built at the time and threatened to diminish the light coming through the window.

"To bounce the natural light, I introduced glass-fronted cabinetry around the vanity mirrors," said Thomas. "I focused on creating warmth through lighting, materials and architectural additions."

Over the his-and-her vanities, she dropped a soffit to create a more intimate alcove effect around the mirrors. The design team enhanced this by adding millwork, paneling and mirrors, which bring opulence and warmth to the space.

To further customize the bath for the clients, a linen closet, sit-down vanity, medicine cabinets and a mini fridge were included. They also reclaimed some space from the private toilet area to accommodate a built-in cabinet for a laundry hamper and toiletry storage.

"My greatest challenge was not getting to design this amazing space for myself!" said Thomas. "The double-door entry flanked by his-and-her vanities, a built-in jetted tub under a picturesque window and a dropped chandelier are an ideal layout when you have the space for it."



"The range backsplash is an Ann Sacks Beau Monde glass and marble tile we fondly refer to as 'Ann,'" said Thomas. "Our client found 'her' on a sourcing trip, and by the way she clutched the sample board, we knew it would need to be worked into the final vision."

Kitchen & Bath Business

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF KBIS



"I flipped the refrigerator and its adjoining counter on the double oven wall because I wanted the fridge closer to the range and to the first island where food would get prepped," said Thomas. "I also wanted the counter to be at the end of the cabinet run to visually open up the room and offer a landing area for dishware going in and out of the dining room on the other side of that counter wall."



The islands are the primary workstations for this kitchen. The island closest to the range serves as a landing, serving and food-prep area, and the one closest to the family room serves as a homework/craft activity table for the kids.

Kitchen & Bath Business

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF KBIS



"My goal was to build a mudroom that not only addressed the current needs of the family but their growing ones as well," said Thomas, explaining that this space needed to accommodate this growing family of five and their dog.



Because mudrooms are often the first and last space homeowners move through in a house, Thomas wanted to build a command center for signed homework, field trip slips, mail and keys. She built the mail cubbies closest to the door so that items in it are not overlooked when leaving the home.

Kitchen & Bath Business

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF KBIS



For the master bath, the clients requested white marble countertops, so the design team chose Calacatta marble instead of Carrera for its whiter surface and warmer look.



"Perhaps it's cheesy, but honestly my favorite part of this project was the clients," said Thomas. "This was a collaborative effort on so many levels, and they put their trust and belief in us throughout. They have been our biggest fans since, and I am grateful this work connects me to generous people like them."