

A delicate balance of beauty and function merges with flexibility of style for appealing combinations in these kitchen winners

BY EVA DITLER
 Judged by architect Tony Garcia and designers Elizabeth Thiele Barkett and Danielle Perkins

A SPOONFUL OF MODERN

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See-through, glass-globe pendants gleam above a center island topped by rich *Taj Mahal* quartzite with a leather-satin finish that feels almost like velvet. The contemporary edge of these elements, along with sleek plumbing fixtures and chrome cabinetry hardware, are a tad surprising in a kitchen redo for a classic La Jolla residence designed by Thomas Shepherd.

Homeowner Carla Rehm says that, although she didn't want to go too wild in the update, she wanted to add elements beyond the traditional — "something that would make it pop."

Tatiana Machado-Rosas of Jackson Design and Remodeling provided the know-how for gently including the desired modern vibe. Even the perimeter countertops of PentalQuartz have a more current sensibility. Their clean, white tone with soft gray veining complements the white marble backsplash done in a mini subway pattern.

Tossing a few contemporary elements into the mix gives the kitchen a fresh look. But

because the home has historical significance, the main gist of the remodel honors its Colonial character.

"Working with the existing interior architecture was key to maintaining the home's personality in the kitchen," Tatiana says. "We brought formality in by repeating the crown moldings found in the rest of the house. The beautiful windows with grids that we installed are similar to what is contained in the rest of the house."

The updated cabinets are not exact matches to the simpler, clear-glass cabinets in other parts of the home. By including leaded glass and other details, the newly installed cupboards offer more elaborate aspects than their less-frilled 1939 counterparts.

"The original kitchen had hanging cabinets between the kitchen and the breakfast room," Carla says. "Tatiana wanted to remove them, but I was afraid that the breakfast room would not look like a separate room anymore. I also was afraid to lose storage. But after talking

with Tatiana and agreeing to get rid of them, I was thrilled when I saw the difference it made. More light comes in. Everything flows better, and now there is a huge opening leading to the garden room next to the breakfast nook.

"Sometimes you live with something for years and you think it should stay the way it is," Carla explains of her reluctance to oust the extra cabinets. "It's hard to visualize something different."

To replace lost storage space, Tatiana designed a hefty, walnut cabinet — painted navy blue — that works as pantry space, as well as a hiding spot for the refrigerator. With the intricate detailing of a period piece, the bureau is reminiscent of the home's origins.

"I love it," Carla says. "I have antique blue-and-white dishes and ginger jars, so this worked very well."

"In fact, the entire kitchen works well," she continues. "It's warm and bright, filled with light and a great gathering place for friends and family."

Clockwise from top: Crown moldings and windows with grids repeat classic details found throughout Carla Rehm's Colonial-style home. Curlicues in the backsplash pattern mimic the exterior door's wrought iron design. A rich, navy blue cabinet designed by Tatiana Machado-Rosas adds the comforting appeal of a period-piece armoire.



"Lightness and brightness provide an airy feel."
 — JUDGE ELIZABETH THIELE BARKETT

