



Photos: Bernards Grijalva Photography

A Kitchen with a View

A Menlo Park family makes the most of their dramatic view with a sophisticated kitchen redesign.

BY BEANDRA BEY

FOR THE SCARGLES, it was a case of not being able to see the forest for the trees. The vexing location of their kitchen counter obscured a wonderful view of their redwood trees and swimming pool. Maximizing a breathtaking view like this is just the kind of challenge Julie Cavanaugh, principal designer and co-owner of Saratoga-based Design 101, relishes.

"Before the renovation," Julie recalls, "the Scargles had a tight, galley-style kitchen. My mission was to create a living space that flowed from the adjacent backyard through the kitchen and into the family room."

Julie's enthusiasm and refined design skills were evident to Jeffrey Scargle, who, along with his wife Phyllis, chose Design 101 from a long list of designers they had interviewed for their Menlo Park home's kitchen and family room renovation. "We felt that we would enjoy working with Julie and that she had a feel for what we wanted," says Jeffrey. "I was also very impressed by her care and attention to details, like the questionnaire we filled out to help zero in on our own color and space preferences."

High on the Scargle family's wish list was to enhance the intrinsic drama of their home's high ceilings and interesting angles. They also wanted the redesign to invoke a feeling of peacefulness that is evocative of their exterior landscaping. Julie's master strategy involved completely gutting the kitchen in order to create a more fluid space between the kitchen and the family room. She also improved the area's circulation by closing off some unused access doors.

Julie found numerous ways to inject just the right amount of drama without overwhelming the eye. "Their home combines traditional, contemporary, and organic design elements," Julie explains, "and we integrated these elements by using a continuity of materials—such as cabinetry, counters, and flooring—and by injecting splashes of color." Phyllis adds, "The pieces of money plants that are embedded in the laminated opaque-white glass of our backsplash make the kitchen incredibly special. Not only is it beautiful, but it also casts ever-changing shadows on the wall that add to the peaceful feel of the room."



And the fabulous natural bamboo cabinets and black concrete countertops continue that same aesthetic while allowing us to use Green elements in our kitchen."

The Scargles also like how the new, large, elevated kitchen island is strategically placed so visitors in both the family room and the kitchen feel a sense of welcome. Because the Scargles love to entertain, integrating the large quantity of new appliances to create a cohesive look was another priority. "We installed a 48-inch Sub-Zero refrigerator and added a magnetic induction wok, a new product that is very popular now that cooks food very fast while staying cool to the touch," states Julie.

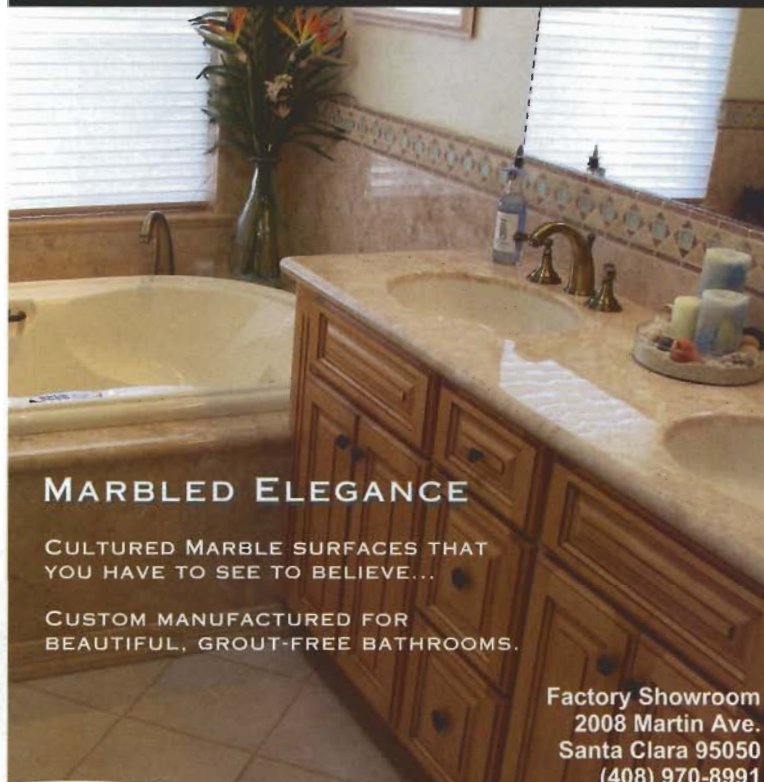
Design 101 uses a team approach to every project and staffs 15 in-house designers who provide detailed and comprehensive service. The 7,000-square-foot showroom contains a dozen room displays that feature timeless designs and the latest trends.

"We address many facets of design—from architectural needs to cabinets and furnishings—giving our clients the largest possible number of options to consider so they can make smart choices," explains Julie. Thanks to the guidance from Julie and Design 101, the Scargles made many smart decisions for their remodel project, and now they can literally see the forest *and* the trees. And what a view it is.

Design 101 is located at 1821 Saratoga Avenue, at the corner of Lawrence Expressway, in Saratoga. For more information or to schedule a consultation, call (408) 873-1100 or visit the Web site at www.design-101.com. **THM**



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