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**KBB's 2016 Design Award Winners
Laundry and Mudroom Trends
A First Look at KBIS 2017**

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Before and After



California Dreaming

A remote kitchen gets a West Coast remodel fit for entertaining inside and out

ABOVE For a busy couple who like to entertain and take in the view, Dorothy Willetts renovated a dated kitchen and opened it up to the outdoors with sliding pocket doors.

The Cambria countertops feature two colors – Torquay (white) and Hollinsbrook (black) – and the backsplash tiles are white glass and Carrara marble cut into a wavy pattern. The satin nickel hardware emulates the shape of the backsplash.

A BUSY CALIFORNIA COUPLE WHO LIKE TO WORK AND PLAY HARD were in the market for a complete kitchen update. According to Dorothy Willetts, ASID, NCIDQ, principal of Willetts Design & Associates in Indio, Calif., he craved a space that opened to the backyard because of his affinity for grilling and golfing, and she wanted to take in the outdoor views and interact with her sons while working in the kitchen.

BANES OF BEFORE

The previous space was pretty much isolated from the rest of the house and extremely closed off. The linoleum floors, black countertops, poor lighting and dated cabinetry did little to bolster its aesthetics.

“Because the kitchen was original to the home, it was not built or designed to take advantage of the indoor/outdoor California lifestyle,” said Willetts. “There were small windows looking out onto this beautiful golf course and mountain view, but there were no sliding or pocket doors to open up the space to the outdoor area.”

Since the cooktop faced into the kitchen instead of out, whom ever was cooking could not appreciate the view, and a small dining area gave way to a lot of extra space on one end.

AFTER EFFECTS

Willetts said she was originally hired to advise the homeowners on paint colors, as they had been trying to freshen up the house on their own.

“After an extended period of time and frustration, I think they and their contractor realized they needed help,” she said. “After consulting with them, asking about how they imagined using the space, what their goals were, etc., I worked with the general contractor and the architect to renovate not only the kitchen but the entire house as well.”

This is how the designer and her team accomplished the clients’ goals with the new kitchen:

- Blew out the back wall and added automated pocket doors leading to the backyard for a spectacular view and ample daylighting
- Expanded the entryway from the dining area into the kitchen and reconfigured the layout for an improved work flow
- Moved the island and the kitchen back six feet toward what had been the dining area to create more room for entertaining
- Changed the refrigerator locations from one side of the kitchen to the other to improve circulation
- Created a two-level countertop at the island to delineate separate seating/eating and working locations
- Added a recessed area on the wall to the left of the entry and put in a 72-in. TV for the husband (at the last minute)
- Updated cabinets with flat-panel doors in a brown/gray textured finish



BY CHELSIE BUTLER

Before and After



ABOVE The flooring is also Cambria cut into large 3-ft. by 3-ft. tiles, and the 20-in. polished chrome pendant lights provide ambience without blocking the view.

One challenge with the kitchen remodel was with the original ceilings, which Willetts could not raise since the roofline started immediately above them.

"I needed to find light fixtures that would give off enough task lighting for anyone using the island but not distract from the view," she said. "The contemporary glass pendants did the job."

According to the designer, opening up the



kitchen to the living and dining areas improved the overall flow of the home, and adding the sliding doors allowed her to increase the entertaining area by permitting people to move from the outside in. As Willetts also enjoys consulting with her clients on art, a small oil on canvas piece by Krisjanis Kaktins-Gorsline from Heather James Fine Art Gallery completes the new kitchen design.

SOURCES

DESIGNER: Dorothy Willetts, Willetts Design & Associates
PHOTOGRAPHER: Gibeon

BACKSPLASH: Elysium;
BAR STOOLS: Sunpan;
CABINETS: Cleaf;
COUNTERTOPS: Cambria;
FAUCETS: Blanco;
FLOORING: Cambria;
HARDWARE: Ashley Norton; **PENDANTS:** ET2 Lighting; **POCKET DOORS:** Fleetwood;
REFRIGERATOR: Sub-Zero;
SINKS: Kohler; **STOVE:** Wolf

LAUFEN

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