

Home

A Frontenac Renovation

Perfect Match

by Nancy Powers

When someone who has undertaken a major remodeling tells you they loved all the people who worked on the project, and that the workmen were friendly and polite from teardown to completion, you can be sure you're talking to a happy homeowner. Such is the case with Susan and Alvery Bartlett, whose kitchen, all-season porch and re-decorated family room were completed only days before their daughter Michelle's wedding to Justin Feldman last October. "And we were having everyone to brunch the day after the wedding!" Susan recalls.



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A gazebo-style, all-season sunroom was added to the home as part of the remodeling project. It includes its own HVAC and has a stone floor.

photos by Jason Mueller



Alvery and Susan Bartlett's newly remodeled kitchen combines painted Decor cabinets with stainless appliances, dark granite countertops, and details like crown molding and beamed ceilings. Cutter's Custom Kitchens and Baths Inc. managed the project.

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The newly designed space fulfills every goal the couple had for the project. "We wanted a big family living space," Susan says. This is actually the second time the kitchen has been remodeled. In addition to children and their spouses, the family now includes three grandchildren. "When they're here, I'm in the kitchen constantly," she says—and it's a wonderful place to be.

Created with their family in mind, the kitchen and new addi-

tion fit seamlessly into the home they bought in 1976. "When we drove down this street, our realtor pointed and said, 'That's the house that's for sale,'" Susan recalls. "It was love at first sight, and I still love it. In fact, there's only one bad thing: the master bedroom is upstairs. Otherwise, the home fits us perfectly. It's cozy."

The kitchen, although it includes the latest stainless appliances, exudes a warm, inviting ambience. "I've been saving pictures of my dream kitchen since I was born," Susan quips, "so I had a general idea of what I wanted." The Bartletts worked with architect Don Symank and Joyce Bishop of Cutter's Custom Kitchens and Baths Inc. "We've done projects with Don before, so we already had the right vocabulary to communicate," she says, "and Joyce was wonderful." In fact, Cutter acted as the general contractor for the entire kitchen project.

"My husband is a raving perfectionist," Susan says. He was the GC for the gazebo, but not the kitchen, which is a real tribute to Joyce. The fact that he could let go of the details and let her manage everything was why things went so smoothly." Patriot Sunrooms and Windows supplied the gazebo.

The addition functions as a casual dining area and a semi-screened porch. "We love having coffee out there in the morning," Susan says. "When the windows are open, it's like a porch, which is something I've always wanted." All the construction details, like finding the stone floor and HVAC (and a method of attaching the structure to the house), were handled by 'the raving perfectionist.' "We were running around constantly, looking at things. Not having to do that with the kitchen was wonderful!" Susan says.

Extra-high countertops—three inches over the standard—were chosen to accommodate the Bartletts. "We're all giants," Susan says. "We have to stay here forev-



A view from the newly remodeled kitchen into the family room. The gazebo opens through French doors to the left. Beamed ceilings, paneling and crown molding were added to the space to match the details in the kitchen.

er since the counters are too high for normal-sized people." A two-level, granite-topped center island includes a table-height section for snacks. "I really wanted that for the grandchildren," she says. "I didn't want them climbing up to counter-height stools."

Dark granite was selected to go with the dark slate flooring in the entryway. "We kept the same wooden floor in the kitchen," Susan points out. A Kitchen-Aid dishwasher flanks an undermounted double-bowl sink. A Sharp, undercounter, push-button microwave oven preserves space in the wall cabinets. One touch and it slides out, a second and it retracts. Thermador convection wall ovens, a warming drawer and a gas cooktop complete the cooking package.

One side of the center island is devoted to Susan's office, cleverly concealing a FAX/copier/scanner and file drawers. "I'm a neat freak," she admits. "I have to have everything out of sight." The desk is pristine, and counters display only a few chosen decorative plates. "We have twice the cabinet space as the old kitchen," she points out. Lighted, glass-front cabinets display china and glassware.

She credits Joyce Bishop with planning all the details that make the new kitchen/family room/gazebo so right for their home. "We had firm ideas about the basics of the kitchen design," Susan says, "but we followed Joyce's advice about all the trim details." Crown moldings and beamed ceilings throughout both



Lighted, glass-front cabinets display china and glassware in the kitchen.

spaces make the renovations seem as if they were always part of the home. Judy Symank, the architect's wife, is an interior designer who also collaborated on the project.

"Cutter managed every detail," Susan reiterates. "The only person we hired was our painter, Randy Conrad, who matched the cabinets perfectly." **LN**

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