

Award-winning Kitchen Design

By Nicole Martinsen



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With 15 years in the trade and eight years of designing to her credit, Areti Tanya Rentzos is a multi-award winner, including a second-place win in the 2010 Ontario Chapter of the National Kitchen and Bath Association (NKBA) awards.

The kitchen shown here won in the freestanding appliance category. This 90-year-old home was not as functional as the homeowners desired and, with a second child on the way, they needed a kitchen that would accommodate their family lifestyle.

Rentzos was able to meet the needs of their growing family and provide design ideas to update the aesthetics of the kitchen. To the homeowners' delight, the kitchen and dining room areas were opened up by removing two major walls, making the space feel less constricted.

Challenges in this renovation were

mainly due to the age of the home. The wiring had to be updated to current standards and moulding had to be replicated to maintain the original uniqueness of the older home.

"We wanted to preserve the essence of the age of the home," said Rentzos.

The starting budget was about \$40,000 but, due to unforeseen issues and additional perks, the total cost came to \$70,000, excluding appliances.

The flooring in the kitchen was replaced with white Lea Ceramiche Rain Forest glazed stoneware tile. The floor was also heated with Nuheat ENERGY STAR® custom mats. Giallo Ornamental Granite countertops, a Hansgrohe faucet, and Blanco sink enhance the upscale design.

The cabinetry brings in the two different tones. The island is solid cherry with a bourbon finish to complement the dining table and existing wood floors in

Rentzos is continually on the lookout for new elements to incorporate into her style. At times inspired by her travels, she also looks to fashion as a way of identifying interior design trends.

the dining room. And, the main cabinetry is solid maple with an English cream finish glazed with bourbon. Travertine tiles, used for the backsplash, complete this impressive kitchen.

Of course, no kitchen is truly complete without state-of-the-art appliances. The homeowners chose KitchenAid, excluding the microwave, which is Panasonic. On the lookout for current kitchen trends? Rentzos recommends creating clean lines and incorporating functional aspects such as a pullout pantry. ■