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# FAMILY FRIENDLY

Like the shingle-style architecture of the home, this award-winning kitchen is workable, beautiful and blends into its environment

WRITTEN BY **LINDSEY ROWE** PHOTOGRAPHS BY **MICHAEL JENSEN**

**T**he kitchen is the hardest working space in any home. So it must be utilitarian. It is also where this family spends the most time together. So it should be beautiful.

Wallingford-based J.A.S. Design-Build specializes in merging the functional and the aesthetically pleasing, and it's this specialty that the judges recognized when they chose one of the company's designs as the winner of *Seattle Homes & Lifestyles'* first annual **Kitchen of the Year** contest.

The talents of designers Kim Clements, her husband, Joe Schneider, and their team of craftsmen took a kitchen in a 1907 shingle-style house—last remodeled in a high-end early-1980s décor with gray walls, pink granite counter tops and highly polished finishes—and turned it into a room that seamlessly integrates traditional and modern styles as well as the personality of the family that lives in it.

The old kitchen was dark and dreary, but a mostly unused formal dining room was the sunniest space in the house. J.A.S. knocked out the wall and a chimney between them to let light flow into one large room. Clements' focus from the beginning was to open up spaces—a hallmark of modern architecture—without losing the traditional “roomness” of the house. The team also enclosed a side porch to create space for stairs to the basement and a new powder room that sits on the large landing.

Once the newly expanded kitchen was established, J.A.S. worked to define different spaces within the 457-square-foot room. Clements set the custom-made cupboards and kitchen windows at different heights for variety and to

## DON'T MISS THESE DETAILS!

Locally reclaimed **Madrona wood** from Urban Hardwoods tops the kitchen island and adds a touch of Northwest warmth and texture. It exemplifies J.A.S.'s efforts to be environmentally sustainable.

Clements chose **soapstone for the counter tops** because the soft material takes a lot of hits. “The more it takes, the better it looks,” she says. J.A.S. carved a drainboard into the stone next to the sink for easy dish drying.

Instead of 3-by-6-inch white subway tiles, Clements chose hand-cut, hand-glazed, platinum-colored **4-by-6-inch tiles**.

**D-pulls**, from Rejuvenation, on drawers mimic the original pulls on the windows. Cupboard latches, also from Rejuvenation, on large cabinets add a subtle touch of class.

**Hand-made brackets** under the cabinets echo brackets in the entertaining room in another corner of the house. They're “like decorative feet on furniture,” Clements says.

The color of the **C2 paint** on the walls is called Kazoo, available at Daly's Home Decorating Center.









avoid a “clinical” feel, she explains. A new island adds counter-top space and storage, and creates a hangout area with three pendant lights dropped over the island for aesthetic variety.

J.A.S. extended the original box-beam ceiling from the old dining room into the new kitchen, thereby unifying the spaces. A Sub-Zero refrigerator marks the division between the kitchen and an adjacent office area, while a door opening to the porch separates the kitchen space from the living area in the large room.

The best part about the new kitchen is that it accommodates the life of a vibrant and busy family. Mom cooks dinner without having to peek around the corner to check on the young children playing; at the same

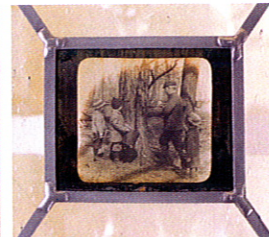
time, Dad has room to prepare fish and game he’s hunted for dinner parties; and the kids benefit from easy-to-reach cupboards filled with snacks such as cereal and easy-to-pull drawers full of toys. Even the dog isn’t forgotten—the black lab named Skagit now has her own “Skagit Center,” a corner of the kitchen with her food and water bowls situated so they won’t slide across the floor.

“The function of the designers is to define the form, but the dress you put on the form depends on the taste and aesthetic of the client,” Clements says. The homeowners who love to spend time together now have the space for it, and the folks behind J.A.S. couldn’t be happier with the results. ■

Hiding a Viking **microwave drawer** in the island frees up counter space and gives the kids easy access for making popcorn.

A square hole cut in a counter top corner lets cooks drop scraps into a bin accessible through an outside door—ideal for **out-of-sight composting**.

Designer Kim Clements centered **Magic Lantern glass projection slides** in the cupboard doors. The images—of scenes such as maple-tree tapping—reflect the homeowners’ New England roots.



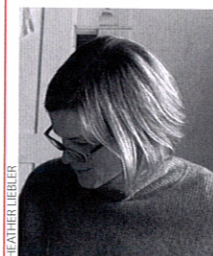




**OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT:**

CLEMENTS PLACED THE CUSTOM CABINETS AND KITCHEN WINDOWS AT DIFFERENT HEIGHTS FOR VARIETY; COUNTER TOPS ARE MADE OF SOAPSTONE FROM QUARRY S/E; THE DESIGNER HUNTED FOR HOURS TO FIND NEW ENGLAND-THEMED GLASS PROJECTION SLIDES ON eBay; THE FAMILY'S BLACK LAB, SKAGIT, RELAXES IN THE ADJACENT OFFICE NOOK.

**ABOVE:** THE VIKING RANGE, RANGEHOOD AND OVEN WERE PURCHASED AT ALBERT LEE APPLIANCE SEATTLE.



**ABOUT THE DESIGNERS**

**J.A.S. Design-Build**

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Kim Clements (left) and Joe Schneider met at the Design School at North Carolina State University, then moved to Seattle in 1990 so Clements could study architecture at the University of Washington. Two years later, the couple began J.A.S. Design-Build. The 15-year-old company now includes an interior design department and a staff of 60.