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Miramonte Kitchen Tour - It Takes a Community

By Sophie Braccini



Orinda's Monique Jasper in her Glorietta kitchen.

Photos Andy Scheck

area", with a plethora of cabinets, a sink and a dishwasher.

Because kitchens have become the center hub of many parties, it was important to create a prep/cleaning area that would be hidden from guests. The appliances are the Wolf/Sub-Zero combination and include a double-oven and warming drawer.

Interior designer Monique Jasper's kitchen is in the Glorietta neighborhood. The kitchen is the place where her family lives, cooks and entertains. Jasper's kitchen is a mix of functionality and timeless refinement.

The Jaspers built their Orinda home five years ago and Monique, as she worked with architect Doug McQuillan, had precise requirements for the whole house in general, and particularly the kitchen. "I was quite meticulous about how the kitchen had to be laid out," she says, "I cook and I wanted things to be practical when we entertain. I also wanted the space to be a place where my three sons would hang out or do their homework."

Jasper oversaw functional arrangements such as deep drawers directly under the Viking range, and two cutting boards for efficient prep. For the layout, she asked for a large nook area where her young sons come and do their home work, and for entertaining, she had the architect create a 'butler's pantry', a space between the kitchen and the formal dining room where dishes, wine or plates can be set for convenient serving.

Jasper's designing style is apparent in the overall feel she gave to the kitchen, as well as in the details. "We chose honed black granite for the center isle," she says, "while the other counters are made of basalt, which is a lighter shade of deep grey." The kitchen cabinets are white, the walls a light grey, the floor a deep, dark cherry; and the whole space is filled with light as two walls mostly made of windows overlook the garden. The kitchen opens into a family room, which is full of light itself.

The classic and elegant feel of the space is enhanced by such details as the kitchen door knobs that are miniature shiny bolts, or the design of the faucet overlooking the farmyard sink that could have come from an east coast beach house.

"The Parents' Club (of Miramonte High School) was looking for a way to bring the community together at some sort of fundraising event. We felt that a Kitchen Tour was the perfect event to host," said Miramonte parent Victoria Bizieff. "Each class donated a lovely basket stuffed with goodies for the raffle. They will be on display at Wilder, the starting point of the tour. Dianna Condon Cuisine will provide morning goodies at Wilder. Table 24 will also present

food from their new south-of-the-border restaurant, Barbacoa, at one of the homes."

The Tour takes place on Thursday, February 9, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$35.00 and can be purchased at

McDonnell Nursery,
Orinda Books,
Lazy K House at Orchard Nursery,
or online at
www.miramonteparents.com
(click on Web Store).



The large, open kitchen of the Wilder model home.



The Black's Farmwood reclaimed hardwood floor is a striking feature of the Wilder kitchen.



Behind the Wilder kitchen is a complete prep area.



The Wilder kitchen, with a marble island and sink, opens onto the family room.



The beverage corner, with a refrigerator below, in Jasper's kitchen.



Jasper's kitchen opens onto the garden.



Timeless detail adds to the ambience of Jasper's kitchen.

Reach the reporter at: sophie@lamorindaweekly.com

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