

Kitchen Tour

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Vickie Vradenburg in her kitchen, which features a colorful Vetrazzo island countertop made of broken bottles and jars.

The Vradenburgs had wanted to redo their kitchen, which was once walled off from the rest of the house with a semicircular bar that overlooked the family room. Last year, after the kitchen was flooded and extensively damaged when a hot water dispenser burst, they got their chance. The Vradenburgs decided to remodel their entire home with the help of architect

Leila Douglah of Douglah Designs.

The couple decided to tear down the original wall of the kitchen and open it up to the adjacent living areas. They converted an unused nook off of the kitchen into a spacious work area for Vickie, raising the window so that they could add a desk that overlooks their garden.

Their more formal dining area,

which was originally walled off from the kitchen, is now opened up and overlooks their spacious entry way and fireplace. An elegant Hubbardton Forge chandelier hangs over the dining table, giving soft light to the space.

Colorful accents complement the kitchen, like three modern, amber-colored pendant lights over the island and forged metal hardware on the cabi-

netry. The backsplash behind the Dacor stovetop is a mosaic of thin multi-colored glass tiles that pick up on the gray tones of the countertop. A travertine tile floor and natural woven window shades frame the kitchen and allow the colorful elements to stand out.

Rounding out the eclectic mix of homes on this year's kitchen tour are an energy-efficient Mediterranean style home with spectacular views of Mount Diablo, a kitchen inspired by its horse ranch setting, a classic traditional-style home and one with a kitchen inspired by the easy yet refined style of Ina Garten, the Barefoot Contessa.

All the homes featured on the tour are located in the Happy Valley, Burton Valley, and Reliez Valley neighborhoods of Lafayette.

Proceeds from this year's kitchen tour will go to Lafayette Juniors' non-profit beneficiaries: New Day for Children, CoachArt, Contra Costa Interfaith Housing, the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, and We Care. These organizations were selected by the Lafayette Juniors for the exceptional support they provide to children and families in need throughout Contra Costa and neighboring East Bay counties.

Tickets are available for sale to the general public for \$40 (\$30 tax deductible), with a box lunch available for \$12. Tickets can be purchased online at www.lafayettejuniors.org or from Douglah Designs (3586 Mt. Diablo Blvd.) and Premier Kitchens (3373 Mt. Diablo Blvd.) in Lafayette.