

# A Beautiful Kitchen by SHOWCASE KITCHENS

By JUNE SULLIVAN

Despite their former kitchen's very small size, the parties given by this Manhasset couple always ended up there. So before building their new transitional style dream kitchen, with adjoining family room, they planned carefully how to enhance that reality.

"For the cabinetry in both rooms, we wanted someone to work with our architect, Tom Fox, who could pay attention to all the details – both design and layout," says the wife. "John Starck of Showcase Kitchens, in Manhasset, came highly recommended. We worked with him for a long time while planning our home's new extension. He was incredibly patient. And he worked extremely well with our architect. You can't tell where John's work stops and the architect's begins."

Their architect adds that by designing similar details in both the kitchen and family room cabinetry, Starck helped create a visual axis that ties the two rooms together. "All the details merge into the next," says Fox, "and the flow of space continues harmoniously. Cabinetry is critical because it is the feature that pulls your eye into a space. John spent many days looking at island schemes, for example. He didn't come up with that in one shot."

A significant custom detail of that island is how the eating bar is cut out to allow for seats to be pushed underneath during buffet style parties, says the wife. "The island is not only the perfect place for our three children to sit at when doing homework, but it is also ideal to gather around when entertaining."

In addition, Starck placed the island next to the patio door for ease in outdoor entertaining.



*Wet bar's glass-fronted cabinets are ideal place to house glassware used for entertaining.*



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*Kitchen island was positioned near door to patio for ease in outdoor entertaining; banquet seating in breakfast area (left) is not only comfortably elegant but provides valuable storage space.*



*It is impossible to tell where top of Showcase Kitchen's custom cabinetry leaves off and architectural molding begins.*



“For the open plans of today, where kitchens are in full view, you must create zones that are designed around the flow of activity,” he says. “Where work stations, cabinetry, cooking and prep areas are positioned contributes to a greater ease in daily routines and it reduces stress when entertaining. Storage is equally important,” he continues. “When everything has a place – and a beautiful one – there is a natural quiet that comes from living in such an environment.”

Indeed. Hidden inside this kitchen’s elegant cabinetry are such conveniences as a warming drawer under the microwave, followed by two freezer drawers, including one for ice. A second freezer ice drawer is set in the handsome wet bar that also offers a sink and wine storage. Positioned next to it is a pantry beautifully disguised as cabinetry, not to mention the kitchen’s extraordinary armoire-encased refrigerator. In addition, the seven-foot-by-nine space that once housed the couple’s former kitchen is now a gorgeous breakfast area with banquet seating that coordinates with the kitchen’s classic off-white cabinetry.

Starck says he really enjoys working with such talents as Fox. “We cherish this relationship. We also value working with the project’s talented builder, Nino Iannone. However, the homeowners were the guiding force. Their previous kitchen had been built in 1937. This time, they wanted something refined and beautiful, but updated and highly functional. And they were behind much of the project’s details.”

“Everything is so functional now,” says the wife. “We can all fit together there as a family. Our three children can gather with friends in the family room while we are in the kitchen. Everything has a place. And – there’s plenty of room to entertain. Frankly, it’s life-changing.” ■



*Elegant range hood over six-burner Wolf stove was custom designed to fit scale and style of kitchen; decorative corbels on flanking spice racks serve as pull-out handles.*



*In order to create a larger sense of space and aid circulation flow, Showcase Kitchens matched family room’s cabinetry and fireplace surround to adjoining kitchen’s cabinetry.*



*To right of microwave is exquisite armoire-encased refrigerator adorned with polished chrome hardware.*



*Veining pattern of Calacatta Gold marble backsplash behind stove was fabricated as mirror image to pattern on island.*