

By Kim Berndtson

# Kosher Kitchen Reflects Mediterranean Style

Designer creates a space that not only reflects the client's style, but also adheres to the family's strict religious beliefs.



**Atlantic Beach, NY** — Remodeling a kitchen for a client who is also a well-known architect can be a bit intimidating, given the high level of expectations inherently built into the project. Extra challenges – including the desire to keep the space kosher – can add to the stress level.

Yet Luis Viteri, principal/senior designer with Showcase Kitchens South in Island Park, NY, eagerly agreed to take on the design task and created a space in the Atlantic Beach, NY, home that not only reflects the client's style, but also adheres to the family's need to keep kosher.

## DRAMATIC DETAILS

The Mediterranean-style kitchen – which is accented with hints of Spanish flavor – boasts an array of dramatic architectural details, including arched windows, doorways and pass-throughs that add to the rich, traditional feel.

"The arches were a bit of a challenge," Viteri recalls, adding that he needed to find a way to balance the curves with the cabinetry so as not to overwhelm the space. "We didn't want to add a lot of curves to the de-



The Mediterranean-style kitchen designed by Luis Viteri is accented with hints of Spanish flavor (top). In keeping with the client's desire for a kosher kitchen, Viteri incorporated two ovens, including a Wolf wall oven (above, left) and a La Cornue range in black and stainless (above, right).



sign of the cabinetry, but we did want to maintain a connection with the overall design."

Viteri worked with Premier Custom-Built, Inc. to develop custom stain

colors for the perimeter as well as island cabinetry, moulding and custom-designed brackets, which connect the upper and lower cabinets and add additional architectural details. "My

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Dramatic architectural details, including arched windows, add to the rich, traditional feel of this Mediterranean kitchen (left).

Two sinks, including this Franke stainless steel undermount sink, allow for separate cleanup of dairy and meat items as required by Jewish law, while armoire-style side-by-side Sub-Zero refrigerators, located behind the island, serve as a focal point for the space and provide for separate food storage (at left, bottom).



clients were very specific about the finishes," he says. "We ordered several door samples to determine just the right color. It did take some time to get it done correctly."

## EXOTIC CABINETRY

In the end, they opted for a warm honey-tint with a rustic finish, which graces the quartered figured white oak cabinets that border the space.

"They are very exotic," he notes, adding that the unique cut not only showcases a distinctive portion of the grain, but also adds a hint of texture. "They look nothing like a typical oak cabinet," he states.

Upper cabinets are topped with moulding in a matching stain, and intermittent open shelving and glass-front cabinets create balance and symmetry while offering display space. Undercabinet lighting adds to

### PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Luis Viteri, principal/senior designer, Showcase Kitchens South, was challenged to create a kosher kitchen in the Atlantic Beach, NY home of a well-known architect. Distinct work zones, plentiful storage and multiple appliances give his clients the ability to easily separate meats and dairy as required by Jewish law.
- The Mediterranean-style kitchen boasts an array of dramatic architectural details, including arched windows, doorways and pass-throughs.
- Viteri worked with Premier Custom-Built, Inc. to develop custom stain colors for the cherry island as well as the white oak perimeter cabinets, moulding and custom-designed brackets that connect the upper and lower cabinets.
- Professional-quality appliances include a La Cornue range, a Wolf wall oven, side-by-side Sub-Zero refrigerators, a U-Line beverage center refrigerator and a Sharp microwave drawer and warming drawer. A Luberon fireclay farmhouse sink is complemented with a Franke stainless steel undermount sink for separate cleanup of dairy and meat items.

the room's ambiance and provides additional illumination for prep and cleanup on the generous granite countertops.

The color and door style of the perimeter cabinets are carried over to the armoire-style side-by-side refrigerators, which grandly serve as a focal point of the room.

Another focus of the space is the large island, which offers ample seating for three. The cherry cabinetry, stained with a custom color in a complementary dark hue, is topped with granite and houses a 24" U-Line beverage center refrigerator and a 30" Sharp microwave drawer and Sharp warming drawer beneath it.

## DISTINCT WORK ZONES

Because of his clients' Jewish faith and their desire to keep a kosher household, Viteri designed the

space with distinct work zones and enough storage so they could easily separate meats and dairy as well as utensils, plates, etc. In many cases, that meant he had to incorporate multiples, such as multiple refrigerators, multiple sinks, multiple ovens, etc.

Side-by-side 30" Sub-Zero refrigerators provide separate storage for cold foods, while a Luberon fireclay farmhouse sink is complemented with a Franke stainless steel undermount sink for separate cleanup of dairy and meat items. A single Wolf wall oven and black with stainless La Cornue range allow for separate cooking.

"My clients were very strict about separating items," he says. "[With some of the additional challenges] the project took a while to finish, but they are very happy with it."

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