

Happy Meals Served Here

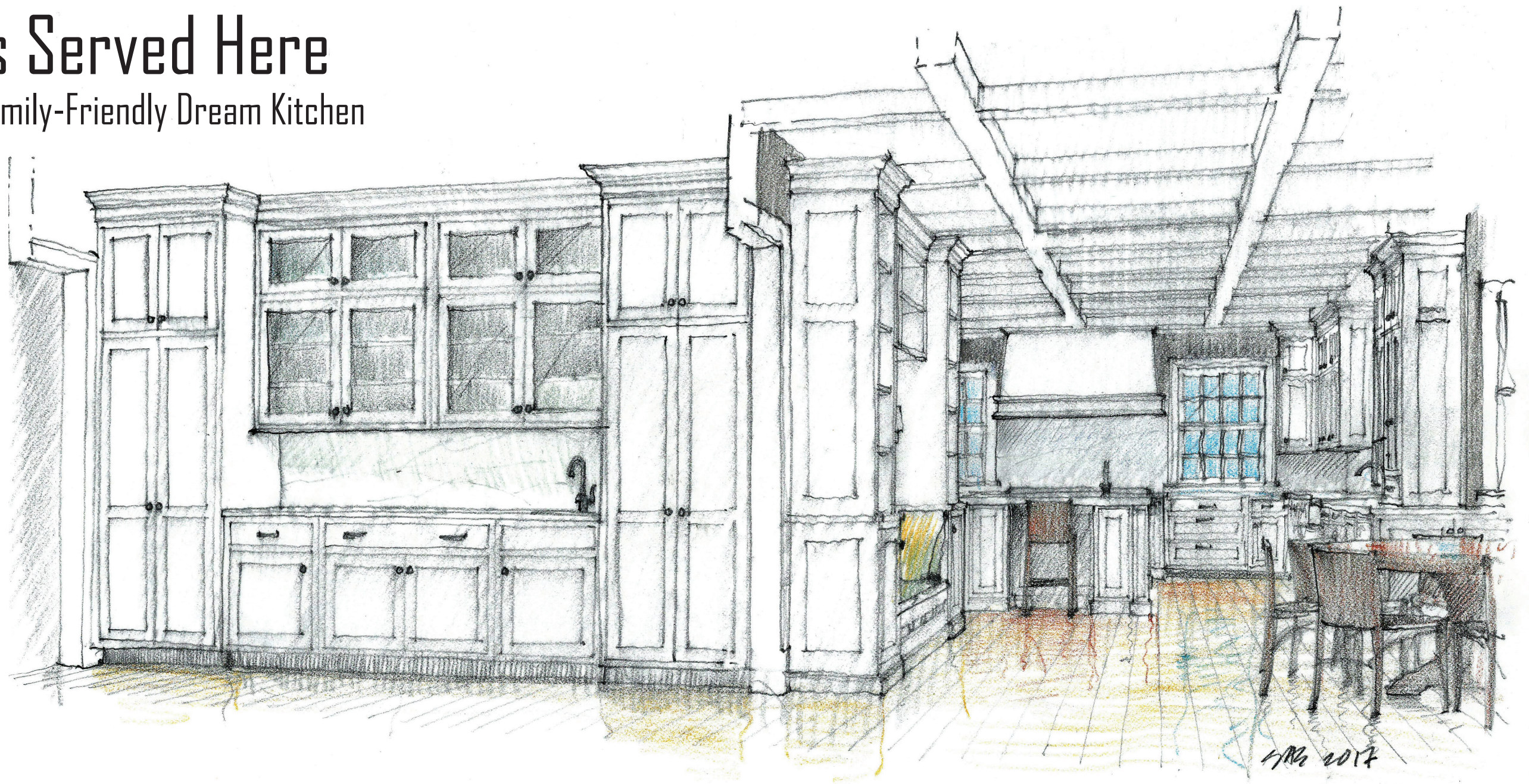
Design Trio Creates Family-Friendly Dream Kitchen

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An inspiring kitchen design was spearheaded by Showcase Kitchens for a Manhasset couple who wanted to create an expansive, light-filled space filled with upscale details that would still be comfortable for their growing family. Kitchen designer John Starck, interior designer Annie Mandelkern and architect Paul Russo collaborated on this modern new kitchen that fits the bill perfectly.

In order to make a lighter, larger kitchen, the original footprint was nearly doubled by moving walls to add square footage from the laundry and maid's rooms. Finding the right balance of luxury and practicality was key to this masterful renovation, interior designer Mandelkern noted. "The two-inch statuary marble countertops and backsplash behind the range are unique design elements. Of course, with four young children we were concerned about having marble countertops, so we had them covered with TuffSkin which protects the stone from stains."

Another personalized addition was a custom multi-purpose area. "We were able to add a seating bench area that also had open bookcases and a pin-up wall, which was a wish list item for the kids' activities and artwork," kitchen designer Starck said. "There was also a butler's pantry and wine room added off the kitchen that transitions to the dining room."



Showcase Kitchens Owner Designer **John Starck**, Architect **Paul Russo** and Interior Designer **Annie Mandelkern's** collaborative approach to the refreshed look included a 12-foot center island with seating for five, beverage drawers for the kids to get their own drinks and snacks, and a handsome coffered ceiling.



Architect Russo reconfigured the layout to optimize available sunlight. “The existing kitchen only had French doors and sidelights; there were no operable windows. The French doors also faced north, so no direct light ever came into the kitchen. We added windows to capture western light so that in the afternoon it’s filled with natural light.”

Much thought was put into each aspect of the design, from the appliances to the lighting. “One feature is, of course, the La Cornue range,” Mandelkern said. “It is truly a work of art and a focal point. We made black the accent color in the kitchen to play off of it. The black lanterns from Urban Electric Co. are another feature that carries the classic yet clean overall design.”

Russo, Starck and Mandelkern’s collaborative

approach to the refreshed look included a 12-foot center island with seating for five, beverage drawers for the kids to get their own drinks and snacks, and a handsome coffered ceiling. “Paul Russo is always a pro,” Starck said. “He worked with Annie and I to align the windows and space with the centerline axis points. We always love to work with Annie – she is so creative and fun – it doesn’t feel like work and the results are always stunning.”

An important deadline kept the team hyper-focused throughout the process. “The biggest challenge of this project was the timeline; our client was pregnant at the time we started and it was a race to have it finished by her due date,” Mandelkern recalled. “The baby and the kitchen really completed this special family!”

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