



PLAYING ALL THE ANGLES

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GAIL OWENS

Winner: *Megan Siason, M Studio Interior Design*

Immediately after Joe and Paula Morehead bought their Jamul property, Paula was chomping at the bit to knock down a wall and redo the outdated, construction-grade kitchen. At first, this worried Joe.

"I've rebuilt some of our homes in the past, but this kitchen had to be taken down to the studs, and I wasn't capable of that," he says. "But then Paula said she had a designer — a friend of our daughter's — so that was a relief."

Although the exterior of the 1999 home was a charming Victorian style, Paula and Joe wanted the kitchen to reflect a balance between modern and country — nothing too sleek

and nothing overwhelmingly traditional.

Joe, who had been a professional chef's assistant when he was growing up, gave voice when it came to the cooking area. Most of Paula's contributions concerned the kitchen's visual aspects, such as coffered ceilings that helped make the kitchen cozier.

At times, though, desires didn't mesh with reality.

"Joe wanted an island; but when the contractor took out the wall dividing the kitchen from the family room, the structural post became a big challenge that we had to work around," designer Megan Siason says. "With an island, the post

would have been in the middle of the space. So, instead, we incorporated a peninsula in a spot that would keep the circulation path open from the family room to the kitchen and through to the dining room."

A desire for marble countertops was cooled and reheated to a quartzite marble lookalike when Megan explained that marble was neither the most durable surface for cooking nor the least maintenance free. And Paula's original vision for an all-white kitchen didn't have enough oomph, so the home's exterior blue-gray tones were taken into the kitchen with base cabinetry.

"I enjoyed playing around with cabinetry heights to create

visual interest," Megan says. "With the existing angles of the home, I was able to add highlights within each direction of this intriguingly spaced kitchen. When standing in the family room, you view the symmetry of columns balanced by ornamental posts. There's a decorative spot for displaying items in cabinetry behind the peninsula in an area we refer to as 'our extended kitchen.' And one of my favorite focal points is the reflective glass-and-stone backsplash behind the range."

Above: Polished chrome handles dress up cabinetry, while coffered ceilings add interest.

Facing page: Cabinets behind the peninsula provide a focal point.



"A creative use of an awkward, existing space and an attention to detail makes this transitional kitchen stand out." — Brittney Nielsen