

A FONDNESS FOR THE FIFTIES

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A kitchen in Delta recalls the “pearls-and-aprons” post-war era



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IN A DESIGN WORLD DOMINATED BY SLEEK, contemporary kitchens of muted palettes, the Broznitsky kitchen stands out with its retro charm, apple-green colour scheme and lovingly curated display of vintage collectibles.

“It was super fun to do and it was totally her,” says interior designer Sarah Gallop of Sarah Gallop Design Inc., who worked with homeowner Deborah Broznitsky on the design of her 225-square-foot kitchen.

Deborah, who works in human resources, and her husband Peter Broznitsky, who works in law enforcement, bought the house 10 years ago when their son was two years old. The 1,460-square-foot, semi-detached home in Ladner Village, Delta, is now 24 years old.

“The kitchen was a hideous pink and had that awful stucco ceiling and ugly fluorescent ceiling lighting encased in plastic. It was horrible,” says Deborah. “We lived with it for almost six years, thinking we would eventually move. But when we began looking, the real estate market was out of our reach.

“Peter and I are the king and queen of duct tape. We have it in every possible colour, but we knew a kitchen reno went way beyond our skill set, even with the clever use of duct tape.”

Deborah saw an ad for Sarah Gallop Design Inc. in a local newspaper. “I wanted ’50s-retro with a modern touch,” she says. “Sarah understood.”

The idea of moving had not been banished outright, so Gallop approached the design vision with care, working with general contractor New Vision Projects Inc. “I didn’t want to customize the kitchen right out of the retail market,” Gallop says. “But I wanted to give Deborah that funky feel she wanted. The goal is to design kitchens that are classic enough to survive the trends, then highlight with bits and pieces that can be changed out easily.”

Visiting the house for the first time, Gallop could see that the layout in and around the kitchen did not allow for an efficient flow of activity, so she suggested turning the dedicated dining room into an office—with custom desk and shelving—and transforming the under-used family room, which opened onto the kitchen, into a dining area. It would include generous storage and shelves to display Deborah's collection of 1950s memorabilia.

Gallop designed the banks of white-with-hits-of-brown cabinetry to serve Deborah's love of baking. "When I bake, I turn on my music from

the '70s and just groove. I spend a lot of time in the kitchen," the homeowner says. "Now I have drawers with all my baking paraphernalia and above them, cupboards holding all my baking ingredients. But my absolute favourite element is the (hands-free Delta) touch faucet. When you're baking, a faucet like that makes life easier."

Gallop added an island to increase the counter space and dining possibilities. The couple entertain frequently.

Deborah loves the efficient layout because it allows for the couple to cook and bake at the same time. "Peter is a great, instinctive cook," she says.

The centrepiece of the design is the custom-made Arborite dining table, chairs and bar stools by Randall Martin of Martin's Furniture that would look right at home in an episode of *Leave It To Beaver* or *Father Knows Best*. Deborah envisioned apple-green-and-white vinyl on the chairs, and that's what Deborah got. All the objects on display, including delicate milk-glass vases and vintage cookbooks, come from her collection. "I change the displays often," she says. "The shelving has recessed lighting, so at night it really looks pretty." ❧



(Above) The custom-made table and chairs from Martin's Furniture in Coquitlam inject a joyful colour palette into the kitchen. Light fixture: Tech Lighting.