

THOUGHT AND INGENUITY

Clever touches characterize a kitchen made for family and entertaining

BY PHILLIPA RISPIN
PHOTOGRAPHY: TRACEY AVTON

The kitchen boasts generous storage space and features, including pullouts for spices and oils, a pot-filler faucet, pantry pullouts, and oversized pot drawers with full-extension Blumotion hardware.



LAWRENCE GREEN SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER. He thought that renovating his Tsawwassen home would be a straightforward process.

“Of course, being in the development and construction business, I thought I would avoid problems, but when you’re doing your own residence it’s a different animal altogether,” says Green, the president of Spire Development Corporation. In the end, “we took a house that was about 40 years old and gave it new siding, new insulation, new plumbing, new electrical. The frame on three walls was basically all that was left standing.”

Three walls? Yes. The fourth, along the back, has now become at least 50 per cent NanaWall, with the remaining half nearly all window. The NanaWall, a system of folding glass walls, opens the newly expanded kitchen to the 625-square-foot back deck for one continuous entertaining space, with a twist: half the wall covers the counter behind the sink and, when open, turns the counter into a bar for the deck.

It’s a kitchen designed to blend family and entertainment needs. “You have the flexibility of the smaller gathering space—it’s a little cozier—that you can open up for larger parties,” says the designer, Sarah Gallop of Sarah Gallop Design Inc. ☞

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Such ingenuity is typical of her design for the kitchen and, indeed, for the whole house. “Some of the unforeseen challenges she turned into real opportunity,” Lawrence says. For instance, during the design phase, they discovered that one of two interior columns near the stairwell was structural and could not be removed. The original idea for a buffet and hutch in that space was scrapped, and Gallop designed a serving bar with drawers, an Electrolux Icon wine fridge, and no upper hutch to interrupt the view out to the deck and the scenery beyond.

The old, enclosed kitchen that Gallop charitably says “needed some love” is now a large space of 12.5 by 15.25 feet, open to the family room and, of course, the deck. Most of the cabinetry is white (Benjamin Moore’s Chantilly Lace), and the pale countertops from Cambria are a variety of quartz called Torquay. In keeping with the pale theme are the stainless steel fridge, freezer, and dishwasher from the Electrolux Icon line, as well as a 48-inch gas range with two ovens by FiveStar.

The full-height backsplash of Vetro Italia’s Bergamo blend of glass and stone tiles is a

strong accent in the room, and the island adds warmth to the mix. Its rich brown tones, courtesy of sapele wood, are topped by Bellingham quartz with bold swirls of dark grey and black on a background of cream and pale grey. The island provides more storage space and also a niche for a Panasonic microwave oven. ☞

The overall colour scheme is cool grey and white, complemented by the backsplash from Ames Tile and the Mini Echo pendant lights in Smoke from Tech Lighting. The oiled white oak floor provides an unobtrusive earth-toned background, and the sapele wood island is a strong block of warmth among the cool tones.

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Anchoring it all is the floor in 4.25-inch planks of oiled white oak, and it makes Lawrence happy. “It’s dent-resistant and scratch-resistant. You simply rub a little bit of oil on them (scratches and dents) and they disappear. It’s so much better than a manufactured floor where you see every scratch, every dent, all the things that are going to happen with normal wear and tear in a home.”

But, it’s no surprise that the NanaWall and the deck are what make Lawrence happiest. “The property has a view over Mount Baker, Boundary Bay, White Rock, right up into the

Hope Valley and even parts of Burnaby, so it’s got an extensive view,” he says. “The deck is a fantastic place to have dinner and watch the landscape change, or in the morning have breakfast and watch the sun come up over Mount Baker.”

With the NanaWall folded away, the kitchen is open to the outside bar and deck, making it an ideal entertaining space. The kitchen is a hit not only with the home’s inhabitants and guests but also with the design/build community; it’s been nominated in the Best Kitchen category for both a Georgie and an Ovation award.

