



The large farmhouse sink located in the central kitchen island allows the homeowner to keep an eye on the kids while working. The raised center of the island conceals the work area from the eating section.

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REINVENTING THE SILVER SCREEN

This homeowner found inspiration in a Hollywood kitchen, and the designer translated her vision into a functional space for a young family.

Some homeowners have vague inklings of what they want their kitchens to look like. They throw out terms like traditional, professional, or homey. In this instance, however, this suburban mother of five young children knew exactly what she wanted—a Hampton’s-style kitchen like the one in the movie “Something’s Gotta Give,” starring Diane Keaton and Jack Nicholson.

Such a directive made designer Ariane Delafosse’s job that much easier. “Some clients are ambiguous about what they want,” says the certified kitchen designer for Canterbury Design in Morristown, NJ. “This gave me something to grab onto. I love it when a client has a definite inspiration.”

But this homeowner was also well aware that there’s more to a real kitchen than one depicted on the silver screen. “She took photographs of her old, cramped, outdated kitchen with the cabinet doors open,” says Delafosse. “She inventoried every item and where she wanted it to go, where she wanted things like deep drawers or roll-outs.”

Delafosse worked with architectural firm Rosen Associates to enlarge the kitchen. Extra footage was taken from an existing family room, and a new addition further opened the space.

The highlight of this kitchen is definitely the beautiful white custom cabinetry by Wood-Mode, which Delafosse characterizes as “Shaker style with a flush inset, so it has a timeless quality.”



The homeowner was inspired by the white Hamptons kitchen from the movie “Something’s Gotta Give.”

The look is kept from being as austere as traditional Shaker with detailing like embellished brackets flanking the hood area and curved cup pulls, knobs, hinges in an oil bronze finish. “It’s considered a live finish, one that will change over time as it wears and the brass starts to show through,” says Delafosse. The look goes with the rest of the colonial house’s shabby-chic trappings.

To keep the emphasis on the cabinetry rather than the expanses of stainless steel, Delafosse enclosed the Sub Zero refrigerator behind wood panels and kept the wall ovens unobtrusive by tucking one on either side of the range top, rather than mounting one on top of the other.

The hub of the kitchen is the centrally located island. Although the original kitchen plan placed the sink on an exterior wall, Delafosse decided instead to install the large farmhouse sink on one side of the island so that the client can keep an eye on her children while she works. The cleaning area, which includes the sink, Miele dishwasher, and recycling center, are hidden from view by the raised central portion of the island.

The existing second story meant the ceiling couldn’t be raised, so Delafosse added coffers to bring interest to the room. Black-honed granite countertops and dark wood floors ground the room and keep it from becoming too light and bright.

The result is a kitchen that the entire family enjoys being in. We have a feeling Keaton and Nicholson would approve as well. ✱