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Complimentary

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Winter 2006

Go with the

flow

Luxe

KITCHEN & BATH

ideas for 2007

Horizontal **art**

the perfect

Focal Point

Photo courtesy of Harway Supply and Woodmode Cabinets.

An **Abode** that *Flows*

Today's dwellings perform many roles:

storage, shelter, entertainment, and sanctuary. Having an open, unified floor plan is important to homeowners, many of whom choose to remove small rooms and create more open floor plans that facilitate increased social interaction.

Vicky and David Altounian live in such a home—a large hillside house with spectacular downtown views. However, the first floor, which exuded a late 1970s feel, was composed of many small, separate rooms, connected by a long, dimly lit hallway. All too often, the members of this family of two adults and three teenagers retreated to their respective rooms; communication and family interaction suffered as a result. Hoping to improve not only their interior environment but also their family dynamic, the Altounians chose CG&S Design-Build for this important renovation project.

"Our house was built like a rat maze," said Vicky Altounian. "CG&S was able to create a central gathering space where the entire family can co-exist. I was impressed with how the design team understood my vision, yet still presented their own ideas."


The 1350 square foot project included the kitchen, living room, dining room, seating area, laundry room, entry hall, and a small kitchen office. Construction began after a five-month design process. Once walls were demolished and an existing office and central stone fireplace removed, an open floor plan with a continuous ceiling that tied the spaces together emerged.

CG&S also chose a more open and flowing layout for the kitchen. "We like to build horizontal banks of cabinets, avoiding the u-shape that often leaves dead corners," said Mark Lind, project designer at CG&S Design-Build. "The Altounians chose maple cabinets and stainless steel appliances. We designed a bank of white laminate cabinets with frosted glass doors above an existing bay window for a clean look. Black and rust colored slate flooring throughout the entire upper level and new stairs help tie the different spaces together. There are three custom etched art glass panels, two of which partially screen the kitchen and dining rooms from the living room."

Halogen lighting was an integral element in the transformation. "Since the island was a focal point in the kitchen, we created a matching rectangular light cove in the ceiling directly above the island and installed a cable halogen light system," said Lind. Direct halogen cable lights by Tech Lighting illuminate the granite island work surface, while indirect fluorescent strip lights illuminate the curved ceiling vault above.

CG&S Design-Build created a modern design that is characterized by open spaces and a modern aesthetic with warm hues and an abundance of natural materials. ■

Visit CG&S Design-Build at 402 Corral Lane in Austin, call them at 512-444-1580, or visit their website at www.cgsdb.com.



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