

Grand Opening

Jennifer Howard of JWH Design & Cabinetry

When Jennifer Howard, owner of JWH Design & Cabinetry in Rye, and her husband, Robbie, purchased their 1950s ranch-style home in Rye, it was out of sync with its estate neighborhood. So the couple decided to turn their home into a two-story shingle Colonial. They took on this project at the same time they were undergoing another major transformation: expanding their family of five by adopting from Kazakhstan a son and daughter who desperately needed a loving family.



Unlike most butler's pantries, which are closed off, Howard's is an open space where children can comfortably prepare snacks and their parents can make coffee in the morning. A furniture-like cabinet addition to the peninsula, topped with butcher block, houses a knife block in the first drawer and, in the second, a pull-out prep counter for shorter members of the family.

Because of their growing family, the Howards knew they'd need a highly functional kitchen. They reconfigured the first floor, combining the former dining room and kitchen to create a combined kitchen/breakfast area/butler's pantry, measuring a spacious 17-by-30 feet and serving as an additional work area and storage space. Separated from the kitchen by a peninsula, the pantry, with its Linkasink hammered copper farmhouse sink, provides a second area for food prep and cleanup. To its left is a pair of Fisher & Paykel dishwasher drawers with custom panels. Cream-colored upper cabinets feature glass-fronted doors and open shelving to hold cookbooks and kitchen accessories.

Howard placed a 90-by-60-inch island—custom made by JWH Design & Cabinetry—in the center of the room, with a Miele dishwasher, a trash/recycling center, and a copper undermount sink. Across from the island, a Walker Zanger-tiled backsplash and furniture-grade cherry cabinets, finished with a hand-wiped stain and glaze, frame a 48-inch DCS duel-fuel range.

"I designed the room to be comfortable and simple to navigate," she says. "It's so convenient. I never feel I have to go out of my way to find anything. Everything has its own place."



Jennifer Howard chose a black six-burner DCS range to coordinate with the Walker Zanger Verde Fire granite countertops. The subtle shades of the flecks within the dark granite also inspired other color choices, including a green glazed island base, red cherry cabinets, cream walls, a Walker Zanger-tiled backsplash in varying shades of brown, and counter stools in red, green, and chocolate.



An important factor in the design was to have the new kitchen seamlessly blend in with the rest of the house, especially the adjoining family room. Cabinetry with furniture-like legs and formal light fixtures, such as the one from Solaria over the island and the pendant from Luna Bella in the butler's pantry (previous page), were chosen over high-hats to create a warmer "living room" ambiance. A TV cabinet that hides the television was designed to coordinate with the rest of the kitchen cabinetry.

