

CLASSIC COLONIAL, SAN MATEO PARK



Don't let this Classic Colonial exterior fool you! You know you're in for a treat when the front door, painted a bright cerulean blue, happily welcomes you in. Access to the kitchen is via the formal living room to the right or the cozy family room to the left. Warm hardwood floors lead the way to this urban farmhouse kitchen. This busy working homeowner and new grandmother acted as her own designer. She sourced all of her own materials and what she couldn't find, she had created from inspirational photos.

The family room is a gathering spot for several generations—enjoying board games at the round table at the front of the room, with lots of natural light and a fabulous chandelier from [AntiqueFarmhouse.com](#) or a movie night curled up on the over-sized sofa from Harvest Furniture. Notice the vintage schoolhouse light fixture above, designed by Omega Lighting. Original art by Dominique Caron, Kristen Benson and Tom Soltesz from the Studio Shop in Burlingame grace the walls.

The beverage bar is one of the homeowner's favorite elements, perfect for leading guests away from the island! The Calacatta marble countertop is off-set by a backsplash made of San Felipe Arabesque red ceramic tile with a glossy white finish. Wine and soft drinks are stored in the U-Line beverage center and the brushed nickel undermount sink by Native Trails, along with the instant hot and cold faucet from Water Inc., make cocktail-fixing and clean up a cinch! Notice the custom-mixed paint color (she's calling it Newhall Green) and glazed finish on the cabinets. You'll see this again on the kitchen island.

They say the kitchen is the heart of the home, but to this



owner, the island is. Plus, it's one of the changes they made along the renovation way—altering its dimensions and making it bigger and more functional. The abundant drawers for linens, china, flatware, cooking utensils and small appliances make everything so accessible when entertaining friends and family.

Another homeowner design favorite are the slim cabinets to the right of the refrigerator storing her bounty of cookie sheets and baking pans. The custom cabinets from KB Cabinets flank two walls, with Caesarstone Pure White countertops from All Natural Stone and a classic subway tile backsplash. The Franke farmhouse sink is reversible and the homeowner opted to flip the design to reveal the fluted apron. Large paned windows and French doors lead the way to the outdoor entertaining space. The Dutch door also allows lots of natural light and fresh air to circulate in the home and is painted in a whimsical blue called Fun 'n Games by Benjamin Moore.

With a nod to the past, this homeowner found the perfect pendant fixtures in a salvage yard in San Francisco. The pair of vintage lights are beautifully highlighted against the tongue and groove ceiling.



SPOTLIGHT THE TALENT

What has worked best for you in communicating with your contractor?

I have used the same contractor for years. We work really well together. I think good communication comes with time. But if I have to give advice for first time experience with a contractor, I think the best way is to not just use what is on paper but to both be in the actual space and physically walk together through all the details together. Do this several times as the project progresses.

Describe your dream project.

My dream project would have no limitations on space and no limitations on budget!

Another dream would be to work on a house that is ALL original from late 1800's to early 1900's and upgrade leaving as much original as possible; keeping the original integrity of

the house. I love original moldings, architectural details, door knobs, pocket doors, tile... etc. It is hard to find a house that someone hasn't taken away all those original elements.

What inspires you?

The history of a house. I love knowing who has lived in the house and how they lived. I also like taking a house that has a rough history and bringing back the love. I think houses have personalities and we need to get in touch with that.

Why have your home on the solmateo kitchen tour?

Because I love what SolMateo stands for and represents. I love the people who work/volunteer for SolMateo. I love all the hard work they do in caring for people. Can't think of a better reason than that!

—Homeowner

STAGING

CDS Interiors
Studio Shop Gallery

VENDORS

Caffe Carello
Julie B. Studio

FLORAL DESIGN

Blooming Vase Floral & Event Design

HOME RESOURCES

Architect: Steve Johnson Construction

Kitchen Design: Swanson Design with KB Cabinets

Tile & Countertops: All Natural Stone, Integrated Resources Group (IRG)

A one-on-one with the homeowner reveals...

What makes you smile about your new kitchen?

"We love that everything is built around facing the back garden which extends our entertaining space."

What pearls of wisdom would you share with others who are about to remodel?

"Know the size of your space. Measure, measure, measure and go to other homes and showrooms to get the sense and feel."

Do you have an 'oh, no—we should have...' regret?

"Not splurging for the larger range and hood. Don't cut corners. It would not have made much of a budget difference in the long run."



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Susie Costello

susie@BloomingVase.com

269 Primrose Road
Burlingame, CA 94010

650.344.5100
www.BloomingVase.com