



A BISTANY KITCHEN

Caren Bistany of Charlotte's Bistany Design on design philosophy, inspiration, and the details of a stunning kitchen renovation.

★ | INTERVIEW BY **JP GRICE** | PHOTOS BY **JOE CIARLANTE** | ★

How did you get your start in design?

After graduating from Appalachian State University in 1988 with further studies abroad through UGA in 1989, I began working for a high-end kitchen & bath firm in Charlotte in 1990. This was a wonderful experience and opened my eyes to the world of residential construction with the kitchen and/or bath being the central focus. Luxury kitchens were in their infancy and the thought process was changing towards kitchens. Clients

were not only looking to the kitchen as a functional space but the dominant space for a family to live, gather, and entertain in. In 1994, I launched Bistany Design.

Can you explain Bistany's unique approach to design?

We take a more holistic approach to design. For us, it's about far more than just cabinetry. Our attention is directed towards all of the elements that define a great kitchen, bath-

room, and surrounding space. From tile, countertops, and flooring to appliances, lighting, and plumbing fixtures, we detail every selection that goes into the home. Throughout it all, Bistany remains involved in every detail of the construction project.

How do you discover the individual personality of your client in order to reflect them through your design?

We spend a lot of time listening, asking questions, and getting to know our



clients' desires, goals, lifestyle, and personality. This is key to a successful project. They are the key team member in the entire process and the project is about them.

What was the inspiration for this space?

The homeowners moved from Connecticut and their home there had a wonderful custom kitchen. The home they purchased in Charlotte had a dark, small, and dated kitchen. The inspiration didn't come from a single source but developed gradually as we forged forward with the design process.

What specific needs and desires did the homeowner have and how did you make them happen?

They wanted a luxurious kitchen that reflected their personality, one that spoke to who they are and how they live. The space needed a complete transformation to achieve this. The first step in the process was removing a long hall and laundry room from the

The successful team that made this renovation possible through Bistany Design are Dutch Made Cabinetry, Renaissance Tile and Bath (backsplash), AGM and Harkey (countertops), and Glass Works, the creators of the custom leaded glass panels.

kitchen area. We relocated the laundry room and then solved the next big challenge: finding a better location for the electrical panel. Once that was relocated, this opened us up to a complete re-design with superior flow and natural light.

What are the major design features in the kitchen?

Every single item in this kitchen was expressly designed and fitted for the space and client. The cabinetry was made to go the ceiling which is 10'. Every feature of the cabinetry echoes of custom detailing; the door style, finish, interiors, leaded glass panels, turned legs, accessories, and more. The beautiful stainless steel hood was crafted just for this area and wonderfully complements the stainless shelving. The backsplash was a key feature for the homeowner. She wanted it to express her desire for color and pattern. We incorporated a handmade glass tile backsplash to achieve this. The stone featured is also one-of-a-kind. We searched and searched for the right countertop and came across two

slabs of stone called Syrah in the back of the warehouse and were able to snag them. I haven't seen this material since.

What do you like most about this kitchen and why?

The fact that my clients are completely happy living in their new kitchen and because it meets their

aesthetic, emotional, and functional aspirations! This space truly represents their personality.

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★ FOR A BIT MORE INFO: www.bistanydesign.com