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KITCHEN & BATH

B u s i n e s s



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universal appeal
ways to kid around



adobe abode

A little spice, a bit of zest, create a Southwestern kitchen with a lot of flair

By Christina Trauthwein

Southwest come alive in this design. The brightly colored floor, ceiling and hand-painted tiles create a dynamic space with extraordinary design chemistry, and if that's not enough, the kitchen features lightning-bolt cabinetry to further charge the space with electricity (pun intended!).

But while the motif is Old New Mexico, the kitchen is anything but outdated. Rather, it's quite contemporary and modern from both an aesthetic and functional perspective, which is due, primarily, to the strong

collaboration of "creative professional minds," as Jackson says. Not only did the design team bring insight and vision to the table, the homeowner did too. And, sure enough, gave the hired talent some solid ideas to develop into reality. "I was thoroughly impressed with the client's understanding of what she wanted and her ability to express it," says Jackson.

A prime example of this is the aforementioned cabinetry, according to Jackson, which was inspired by a piece published in *New Mexican*



The cat's meow: In the butler's pantry, a playful cutout (above) accesses the pets' litter boxes, proving that the kitchen meets everyone's needs! The energy of the design vision is reinforced by lightning-bolt cabinets—both in the main kitchen and pantry—inspired by the work of archaeologist and artist Jesse Nusbaum.

specs:

kitchen design & cabinetry: Kathy Jackson, J. Wheeler & The Branch Cabinetry

architect: Lee Shaw & Rick Ansaldi, Ansaldi Shaw Design

builder: Chip Evans, House Makers

manufacturers:

Tile by Jenny Lind, Rainbow Gate
Floors by Gay Goodman, Faux Real
Appliances by Sub Zero
Decorative hardware by Hafele

Furniture 1600-1940, part of a private collection in Santa Fe, NM. Jesse Nusbaum, a mid-20th century archaeologist, photographer and the first director of the Laboratory of Anthropology, designed and carved a sideboard with doors that feature lightning-like splats similar to those found in *alacenas* (wall cupboards). "The owners saw the publication and wanted design elements from that photo to be reflected in the kitchen," says Jackson. "We incorporated the contemporary lightning-bolt motif in the warm maple cabinetry and twisted carved corner posts of the island."

In other areas of the kitchen, stainless-steel screens set in the cabinet fronts replace the carved pattern and add rustic character to the kitchen, as well as complement the modern appeal of the stainless appliances. For added interest, seeded-glass inserts adorn the upper portions of the wall cabinets.

DESERT ISLAND

"Flow was very important to the design of this kitchen, which is large enough to accommodate a caterer and crew," says Jackson. "The clients entertain often, whether hosting family gatherings or casual get-togethers, and the space had to reflect that function." Because the kitchen is accessed from three different rooms, Jackson paid careful attention to the traffic pattern, visually anchored by the central island. "I kept the aisles wide and laid out the room so that people can



This kitchen, designed by Ansaldo Shaw Design with Kathy Jackson of Albuquerque, NM, received a regional award in the Sub-Zero/Wolf kitchen design contest, held every two years to recognize kitchen designers, architects, interior designers and builders for outstanding kitchen design.

The brightly colored design of this kitchen is grounded by natural elements, such as the earth-toned concrete floor and granite countertops. The semicircular tiled archway behind the cooktop features hand-painted tiles, which are illuminated by an ample skylight above.

Photography © Robert Reck



Known for its vibrant flavor with a spicy punch, Southwestern cuisine is typically not for the faint of heart, or tastes for that matter. In fact, that fiery kick—you know, the one associated with jalapenos and chili powder—is often an acquired taste. But once acquired, it absolutely delights and excites the senses. Well, this kitchen, near the banks of the Rio Grande in Albuquerque, NM, takes that idea and goes one step further by translating the experience into the design and creating a visual flavor that exudes energy, vitality and even some whimsy.

Designed by Kathy Jackson of J. Wheeler & The Branch Cabinetry in conjunction with Tucson, AZ-based architects Rick Ansaldo and Lee Shaw of Ansaldo Shaw Design, this pueblo kitchen borrows a number of ideas from its strong regional culture, which becomes the foundation for the entire concept. Captured in paintings, photos and the imaginations of many, the landscape of New Mexico inspires; and that inspiration, in turn, is captured in the parameters of this 24' x 15' space. From desert sky to cactus flowers to native earth, the natural elements of the