

Charlotte

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HIDDEN TREASURES

BY CATHERINE GHONEIM WHITNEY

SMALL DETAILS, THOSE LITTLE THINGS THAT SEEM TO BE HIDDEN IN THE BACKGROUND, OFTEN MAKE THE BIG PICTURE OUTSTANDING.

This special kitchen renovation was a true collaboration between IMPACT Design Resources, designer Lauren Clement of Lauren Nicole Designs, and general contractor First Rate Builders. With a light and neutral color palette and floor-to-ceiling cabinet space, this kitchen is fabulous *and* functional.

But it's the background features in this spacious room that make it truly unique.

Clients often struggle with the decision of whether to take the cabinets to the ceiling. With these gracious ten-foot ceilings, we filled the space by tying the cabinetry into the existing house crown moldings. While the upper level of cabinets is not everyday useable storage space, it provides an exciting focal point by using diamond mullion inserts on the upper-level glass cabinets, on the storage cabinets over the



PHOTOGRAPHY BY TIM SCHLABACH



“SMALL DETAILS OFTEN MAKE THE BIG PICTURE OUTSTANDING.”

refrigerator and ovens, and on the peninsula end panel. While these details are few, they have a significant impact on the overall aesthetic and beauty of the space.

The china hutch is a piece that is very special to the client. After several revisions by IMPACT Design Resources, Clement, and the client, we were able to make it perfect. With glass on three sides, we added a warm LED light strip to highlight the interior, showcasing the client's special crystal and family photos.

One of the most exciting features of this grand kitchen is the integrated door passage from the kitchen into the food storage pantry. Previously a cased door, it broke up the cabinetry and made the kitchen feel small. This new passage allows for direct access to the food storage area or closet without having the interruption of a doorway right in the middle of

the custom cabinetry wall. IMPACT Design Resources cleverly engineered this passageway by using cabinet door panels that align with the surrounding cabinets. It's seamless, and if you didn't know this was the opening to another space, you would think it was another cabinet.

Every space is unique, and each client has their own wish list. By carefully listening to our client and understanding what was possible in the space, we incorporated many elements that create great design: function, light, space, detail, materials, and color.

Remember: A little bling goes a long way. If possible, always go for statement hardware, a decorative end panel, or special mullion door panels. It's these details that will make you happy for years to come! ♦

CATHERINE GHONEIM WHITNEY is a senior designer at IMPACT DESIGN RESOURCES. For more information, call 704-363-3329, visit IMPACTDESIGNRESOURCES.COM, or tour the SouthEnd showroom.