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OCTOBER 2009

# REINVENTED

Slices of orange heat up a tired old kitchen

BY EVA DITLER | PHOTOGRAPHY BY GAIL OWENS

Previous owners knew that if they wanted to sell their University City home, they had to do something about their painfully out-of-date kitchen. The quick fix? Granite countertops. However, for the new homeowners, designer Kristy Kropat and husband Martin, the shift of countertop material wasn't nearly enough to freshen this salute-to-the-'60s cook's space.

Kristy knew they could create their ideal kitchen if they knocked down

walls, raised the ceiling, lost the fluorescent lighting, dumped the dated cabinets, switched out the linoleum floor and pumped up the color — in other words, if they just started over.

"The existing kitchen was dark, almost cave-like," says Kristy. "The sliding glass door in the adjoining family room was south facing, which should have let in a lot of light, but the floor plan of the kitchen blocked that light."

By removing a half-wall and a wall with double ovens and barely reach-

able upper cabinets, the Kropats opened the kitchen to the family room. The space now is suffused with light from the family room and from newly installed recessed lighting.

"Usually can lights are circular but



## 2009 ASID FALL KITCHEN TOUR PARTICIPATING DESIGNERS

- Renee Allison, Allied Member ASID, Renee Allison Interiors, 619/807-0078
- Enid Arckless, ASID, MEA Designs, 858/759-9041
- Carly Blalock, Allied Member ASID, and Etta Osborn, Allied Member ASID, CEDO Interior Design, 858/459-4333
- Kristy Kropat, Allied Member ASID, Kropat Interior Design, 858/405-3535
- Tatiana Machado-Rosas, Allied Member ASID, Jackson Design and Remodeling, 619/442-6125
- Kathy Novo-Shumate, ASID, CMKBD, Professional Design and Remodeling, 760/407-9556
- Afshan Rahmati, Allied Member ASID, 858/395-3958
- Anjum Razvi, ASID, Razvi Design, 858/672-8831
- Natalia Trepchina-Worden, ASID, 858/499-0096



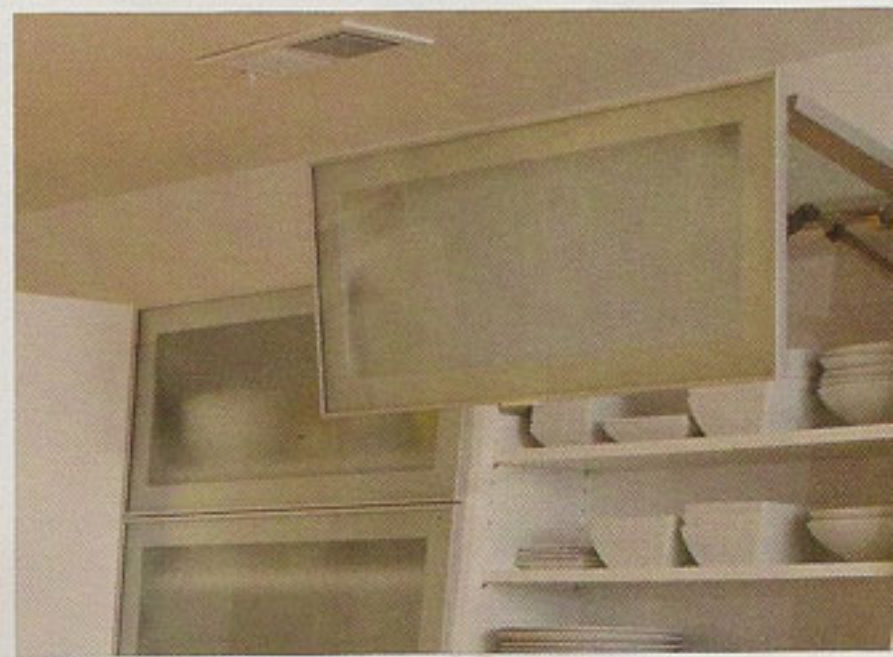
before



*Opposite:* By opening the kitchen to the family room in their University City home, Kristy and Martin Kropat's fireplace became the focal point for the entire space. So as not to break up the custom gradient glass tile, the Kropats purposely did not include a mantel on the fireplace. Slim wires hanging from the ceiling by the fireplace hold candles (and stockings at Christmas).

*Left and below:* The new layout allowed for a double pantry, which helped provide more storage than the old kitchen. Existing dark cabinetry was replaced with Kraftmade Venetia European-style cabinetry, a minimal cabinet style with no extra moldings. Upper cabinets hinge on the top so that the whole cabinet opens at once.

*Next page:* The backsplash is a mixture of matte and gloss glass tile. "We tried to carry that texture mix of matte and gloss," says Kristy. "Cabinets are matte, while appliances are shiny glass. We didn't want stainless-steel appliances because we wanted the orange color to be the focal point."



# ASID KITCHEN TOUR

we wanted to carry out the square and rectangular mosaic random pattern of the tiles in the lighting,” says Kristy.

The challenge was the rectangular skylight. “Because of the pitch of the roof we couldn’t make the skylight that shape, so we used a solar tube that we covered with a translucent piece of acrylic. The light shines through that very subtly, but it gave me the shape of skylight I wanted to create.”

In the new layout ample storage is provided by a double pantry and Kraftmaid Venetia European-style cabinetry.

“These cabinets have no extra moldings and gave us the clean European style we wanted,” says Kristy. “The upper cabinets hinge on the top so that the whole cabinet opens at once. We chose glass cabinets to keep things light and airy. As you go up the wall, materials get lighter visually.”

The Kropats brightened the space with vibrant accents of orange on din-

ing room chairs, family room cushions and a chandelier.

“There’s a big splash of orange in the kitchen with the CaesarStone countertops,” says Kristy. “They are the focal point. We kept everything else very white so the countertops would stand out. The waterfall edge brings the color to a vertical surface that’s visible from the adjoining room.”

To emphasize the waterfall edge and to convey the illusion of floating cabinetry the toe kick is extra deep — eight inches.

Not wanting to end up with a kitchen that was cold and modern, the Kropats warmed up the space with ash flooring that continues into the family room. Here the gleaming mosaic glass tiles on the new fireplace liven up the room and the Togo furniture is comfortable and kid-friendly for the Kropat

children — two boys ages 1½ and 3.

When asked what she liked best about the new space, Kristy replied, “The orange countertops. But, in general, I love the openness and how cheerful and bright it looks now.”

Where to find it, page 142

You can visit the Kropat all-in-one kitchen/family room during the ASID Fall Kitchen Tour. See details in the box below.

## ON TOUR

- What: 2009 Fall ASID Kitchen Tour
- When: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 10, 2009
- Tickets: \$25/general, \$20 each/groups from 4 to 9, \$15 each/groups of 10 or more
- Hotline: 858/646-9896 for ticket details and locations
- Web site: [www.asidsandiego.org](http://www.asidsandiego.org)



before

# WHERE TO FIND IT

PEOPLE, PRODUCTS & SERVICES

## HERE & NOW, page 28

Back to the Future: for showrooms,  
www.richardschultz.com

Debut Discovery: Aprro, 310/699-8333;  
www.apro.com

Destination Design: Esteban Interiors, La Jolla, 858/729-0045; U. S. Grant Hotel, Grant Grill Bar and Lounge, 619/232-3121

Geared to Art and Garden: Pigment, 619/501-6318  
Lighting the Way: To-the-trade, Kneeder-Fauchère, 310/855-1313

Plants Perfect: To-the-trade, Thomas Lavin, 310/278-2456

Timeless & Timely: Cole's Fine Flooring, 619/276-5140; 619/442-3277

Treasure Chests: Peter Grau Gallery, 858/259-0353; Mexico, (52) 415-152-1623

Photography: Gary Conaughton, 619/497-0075; Gail Owens, 760/631-0537

## DE-CLUTTER AND REORGANIZE, page 34

Susan Geier, ASID, CID, Geier Goodman Design Associates, 760/753-6649

Beverly Hunter Jackson, Hunter Jackson Design, 760/942-9652

Robbie Maynard, ASID, Robbie Interiors, 858/755-7467

Mimi Moore, ASID, CID, IDEC, NKBA, NCIDQ, professor of interior design, San Diego Mesa College, 619/388-2256

Kerry Nelson, ASID, CID, 619/574-0987  
Illustration: Blair Thornley, 619/299-3874

## THREE DECADES AT THE TOP, page 36

Business: International Bath & Tile of San Diego, Inc., Kearny Mesa, 858/268-3723; Solana Beach, 858/481-4984

Photography: David Hartig, 619/518-6708

## RECYCLING TREASURES, page 42

Acanthus Antiques, Encinitas, 760/633-1515  
Genghis Khan, Morena, 619/275-1182

The McNally Company Antiques, Rancho Santa Fe, 858/756-1922

Paradise Antiques & Interiors, Mission Hills, 619/298-9909

Photography: Gail Owens, 760/631-0537

## A DISCERNING EYE, page 46

Architect: Leonard Veitzer, FAIA (with Carole Laventhol), 619/338-9888

Interior designer: Carole Laventhol Design, 858/552-8651

Contractor: Alan Gross, Distinctive Construction, 858/270-0164

Landscape design: Carole Laventhol

Landscape contractor: Mike Martin, Occidental Landscape, 619/889-4450

Appliances: Standards of Excellence, 858/274-6004 (Sub-Zero refrigerator, Miele dishwasher, oven, cooktop and microwave, GE Monogram, Blanco stainless-steel sink, and KWC faucet)

Bath faucets: Ferguson Bath and Kitchen Gallery, 858/974-5100 (Dornbracht)

Bed-head wall execution: Rod Jones, Custom Wall Covering, 619/462-4988

Cabinet design: Felipe Pallares, 858/551-4040

Cabinet fabrication, Masterworks, 858/483-0880

Furniture, custom: Paul Potash, 858/454-6812 (master bedroom drawer chest, bookcases)

Furniture, living room sofa, Christian Liagre for Holly Hunt, Kneeder-Fauchère, 310/855-1313

Garage doors: Kenny's Garage Doors, 619/884-1686 (Bryce-Parker custom doors)

Hardware: San Diego Hardware, 858/576-1892

Kitchen counters: CaesarStone, California  
Countertops, 619/460-0205

Lighting design: Cynthia Burke, Burke Lighting Design, 858/350-3900

Marble: Arizona Tile, 858/566-5971, 619/276-3915

Mirror, powder bath: Standards of Excellence, 858/274-6004, 619/542-8222 (Paul Decorative Products)

Mirrors/shower glass: Sorrento Glass, 858/259-5169

Painting by Stephen Curry: Quint Contemporary Art, 858/454-3409

Porcelain tile: Walker Zanger, Los Angeles, 310/659-1234

Rugs: Outrageous Rugs, 858/536-9118; Aja Rugs, 858/459-0333 (living room, antique Oushak from Turkey; area rugs)

Skylights: Lane-Aire Manufacturing Corp., Carson, 323/636-2324; Solar Industries, 760/599-4154

Sound system, TV Lift over fireplace: Steve Ritter, Sound Ideas, 858/578-4380

Window coverings: Levas & Son Draperies, 858/566-6604 (blackout shades in bedrooms); Electric Shade of California, 877/817-2290 (electric sunshades)

Photography: David Harrison, 619/235-9718

## SKY-HIGH, page 56

Interior design: Steven Cheroske, ASID, CCID, NCIDQ, 760/320-4020; 619/546-8796

Interior paint: Dunn Edwards

Charles Eames desk chair: Design Within Reach, 619/744-9900

Flooring, sea grass: Dupont Flooring, 858/292-2575 (home office and bedroom)

Kitchen appliances: Standards of Excellence, 858/274-6004 (Gaggenau oven, cooktop; Fisher & Paykel dishwasher drawers; Sub-Zero 700 series refrigerators and freezer drawers; Dacor warming drawer; Franke stainless-steel sink, Grohe faucet)  
Fireplace surround: Sorrento Glass, 858/259-5169 (painted back glass)

Lighting: Urban Lighting, 619/232-6064 (including Tech Lighting mirror)

Millwork, custom: Michael Borrelli, Borrelli Design, 619/692-0734

Photography: Jeremy Dahl, 858/344-7577

## REINVENTED, page 68

Designer: Kristy Kropat, Allied Member ASID, Kropat Interior Design, 858/405-3535

General contractor: Paul Heiskala, 619/200-1992

Appliances: Sears, 858/622-9300 (JennAir glass-front refrigerator and dishwasher, Kenmore Elite stove/cooktop, Kenmore microwave)

Artwork: Erin Blaney, 402/680-0991 (large piece by mantel); Backsplash and fireplace glass tile: Oceanside Glass Tile, 760/929-4000; Stones Unlimited 858/622-0014

Cabinets: Kraftmaid, 888/562-7744 (Venicia European-style cabinetry)

CaesarStone countertops: California Countertop Inc, 619/460-0205

Carpet tiles: Flor, 866/281-3567  
Cushions by fireplace: Crate & Barrel, 858/558-4545

Dining chairs: Scan Furniture House, 858/537-9051 (Calligaris Jam)

Dining table: Plummers, 858/566-7560  
Fan: Minka Aire

Fixtures: Dixieline, 858/695-0600 (Blanco sink/Grohe faucet)

Flooring: Kahrs, www.kahrs.com, available at Winfield, 858/587-9007 (ash)

Hardware/pulls: San Diego Hardware, 858/576-1892 (Hafele)  
High chair: USA Baby 858/578-3334 (Stokke)

Kartell chandelier, side tables and accessories: My Own Space, 858/459-0099

Painting: Butch Billings, 619/424-7074  
Sofa, chair and ottoman: Ligne Roset, 858/454-3366 (Togo)

Sofa pillows: Lisa Davis Upholstery, 619/283-5429

Tile installation: Pinnacle Tile and Stone, 619/980-0486

Window coverings: Interior Window Designs, 619/890-2713

Photography: Gail Owens, 760/631-0537

## NKBA AWARD-WINNING DESIGNS, page 76

Best Large Kitchen  
Design: Cheryl Hamilton-Gray, CKD, Hamilton-Gray Design, Inc., 760/632-9322

Appliances: Bosch dishwashers, Sharp microwave, Wolf range and ovens, Stone Age Designs hood, GE Monogram warming drawers and trash compactor,

Sub-Zero refrigerator, freezer and wine cooler, Kohler apron sink and prep sink, Harrington Brass main sink and prep faucets and soap dispenser, ISE disposer

Backsplash tile: Encinitas Tile & Stone, 760/436-4630  
Bar countertop: Verde Bamboo granite

Fireplace: Stone Age Designs, 866/385-9486  
Island countertop: Walnut edge grain wood

Island pendants: Antique Lamp Supply, 800/424-5534  
Kitchen and family room flooring: Random-width engineered wood planks from Meridian Wood Products' Andes Collection, Rustic Nogal Pinot Noir

Kitchen perimeter countertop: Aztec Isis cream limestone

Photography: Gail Owens, 760/631-0537

Best Small Kitchen  
Design and artwork: Rebecca Flynn, CKD, CBD, CID, Borrelli Design + Cabinetry, 619/692-0734 x103

Cabinet and butcher blocks: Borrelli Design + Cabinetry (see above)

Countertop: Stones Unlimited, 858/622-0014

Best Large Bathroom  
Design: Terry Smith, CKD, CBD, CID, 858/756-6608

Best Powder Room  
Design: Tatiana Machado-Rosa, Jackson Design & Remodeling, 619/442-6125

Best Other Room  
Design: Jaimi Julian Thompson, Artisan Design Group, 619/269-1211

Photography: Gail Owens, 760/631-0537

SNUGGLING IN, page 100  
John's Fifth Avenue: Fashion Valley, 619/574-3086; also Hillcrest, Westfield UTC (La Jolla) and Westfield North County (Escondido)

M Missoni: Fashion Valley, 619/293-7100  
Naeem Khan: Neiman Marcus, 619/692-9100

Susan G. Komen for the Cure in San Diego: sandy@sdkomen.org

Wacoal bra: Nordstrom Fashion Valley, 619/295-4441, and La Jolla, 858/457-4575; www.wacoal-america.com

Photography: David Hartig, 619/518-6708

CLASSIC COMFORT, page 116  
Crème of Cilantro Soup: Tabule, 619/238-0046

Root Vegetable Soup: Grant Grill, 619/744-2077

Orange Carrot Ginger Soup: CrabCatcher Restaurant & Seaside Grill, 858/454-9587

Photography: Ramona Willis d'Viola, 619/425-6788

For the Record  
In our August issue, Bret Balyea of Bradley Landscape was the landscape designer and installer in the story of a remodel of a Rancho Santa Fe home ("Crustacean Character," page 50). The photographer of the living room and dining room in the same story was Ed Gohlich, 619/423-4237

In our September issue, the interior design for Michael and Juanita Eagle's Rancho Santa Fe home ("Gusting Spirits," page 39) was done by Regina Kurtz, ASID, Alpha Design Group, 619/668-9110.

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