

# CALIFORNIA CACHET

*Couple replaces 30-year-old country-style pine kitchen with timeless design*

**THE COUNTRY-STYLE PINE CABINETS** in the Campbellville home of Auleen Carson and Paul Lupinacci were dated, but the owners were reluctant to part with them. The idea of discarding the 30-year-old cupboards, which were original to the home, seemed a waste of precious resources to this environmentally conscious couple.

“The reason we kept them so long was because they were in great shape,” says Auleen. “We weren’t going to get rid of them unless we could find a good home for them.”

Auleen and Paul figured it was the right time for a new kitchen when a family member in Hamilton offered to take the old cabinets. They sought out the design expertise of Ellen Preston, a designer with Cranberry Hill Kitchens in Campbellville, who suggested the new kitchen should be in the spirit of the house’s architectural style.

The house, says Preston, is a California-style bungalow. “We worked from the fact that the whole house has a West Coast look,” she says.

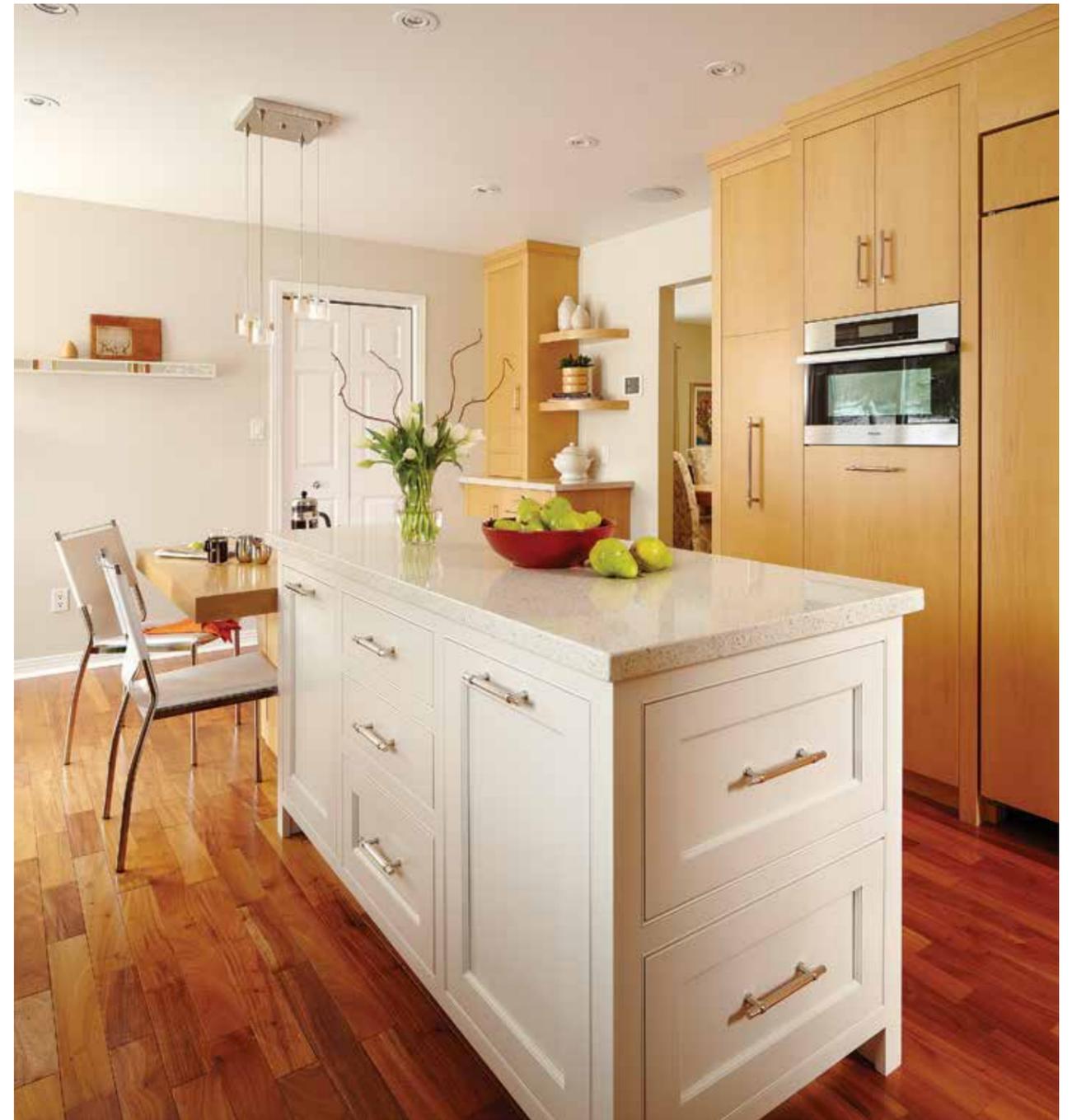
The former kitchen had a U-shaped peninsula that the fridge door bumped every time it was opened. “It was tight,” says Preston.

The layout would need to be redesigned to make the most of the room’s dimensions of 18-by-13 feet. “I was pleasantly surprised we could fit an island in it,” says Preston. “We wanted every inch accounted for.”

**BY STEPHANIE WHITTAKER**  
**PHOTOGRAPHY: KELLY HORKOFF**  
**STYLING: CARMEN MAIER**



*(Opposite) The table’s curvaceous base permits a fifth chair to be added for dining. Crafted of the same wood as the cabinetry, it is anchored to the island. (This page) The island was topped with a slab made of such recycled materials as glass, ceramic tiles, stone chips and crystallized ash.*





*“In day-to-day use, the kitchen is now much more efficient and we use it a lot.”*

*The homeowners opted for recycled glass in the backsplash. The vertical cabinets that flank the Miele cooktop hold spices, oils and vinegars.*

Using the space judiciously meant installing a so-called “magic corner” at one end of the kitchen, beneath the coffee preparation area. A bank of three faux drawers hides a cabinet that is used for much-needed storage. It mirrors a bank of three authentic drawers at the opposite end of the counter.

The drawers flank a Miele oven and cooktop that had been in the former kitchen. “They want to keep these appliances until they expire,” says Preston, adding that the oven is 27 inches wide. “So we put framing around it to accommodate a 30-inch oven for when the couple trades up.” Above the cooktop, a Cristal HC Slideout range hood by Faber is retracted into the cabinetry when not in use.

Making the most of the space, Preston also installed a push-latch cabinet on each side of the cooking surround. One holds spices, the other oils and vinegars. The lack of hardware on them keeps them discreet.

Mindful of sustainable design, Auleen and Paul chose a backsplash of recycled glass in three colours, along with a textured tile called Zuma Bamboo, from Vancouver’s Interstyle Ceramic & Glass. The yellow tiles reflect the rich golden colour of the stained maple used on the upper cabinets and floor-to-ceiling cupboards. The maple cabinetry of the island and lower cabinets in the cooking area were painted a creamy tone, which contrasts well with the exotic Brazilian hardwood floor.

“The environmental aspect was very important,” says Auleen. “The countertop is a material called eco by Cosentino, which is made of recycled glass, mirror, ceramic tiles, porcelain, stone chips and crystalized ash.”

A custom-built maple table is attached to the island, over which hangs a lighting fixture that boasts geometric shapes.

Auleen says that in addition to updating the kitchen’s design, efficiency was at the top of the wish list. “Before, we had to walk across the kitchen to put away dishes from the dishwasher,” she says. “In day-to-day use, the kitchen is now much more efficient and we use it a lot.”

