

Two additional fireplaces were re-bricked to match the one in the living room, and wood floors are now visible throughout the home – except in the bathroom where marble was installed. A new powder room was also created to ensure the comfort of visitors.

“I really wanted this design to stand the test of time,” says Warner.



Wrap-around windows (center) provide bright natural lighting for the interior staircase off the family room.



The kitchen door opens onto the expansive deck. The doors at left lead to the dining room.

The living room ended up serving as an anchor for the remodel so that the contractor, Kirk Wall, could dramatically transform the kitchen, dining, and family room areas per Pennell’s vision. Wall, says Pennell, “helped make design decisions along the way. He has a nice eye. This would not be what it is if any one of the three [collaborators] was not participating.”

The whole back of the house now has a view of Mount Diablo – a simply stunning sight that is felt as much as seen upon entering the front door, thanks to the redesign.

“The flow is wonderful,” says Warner. “It feels very spacious – much more than the original design.”

Strategically placed French doors between the family and living rooms also contribute to that sense of openness, as does the high ceiling in the kitchen, Warner’s favorite room in the house. Warmed by a fireplace on chilly, okay-to-burn days, it truly is the heart of the home – a comfortable place where visitors are inspired to put their feet up, relax, and zone out to the serenity of the natural views. It is the perfect setting for Warner who enjoys having family and guests near her while cooking.

Gnarled oak trees visible from the dining room give one a sense of timelessness. At least one of these sturdy friends is believed to be 150-years-old.

It’s also easy to have fun. The kitchen and dining room areas open onto an expansive deck. During the summertime, Warner rolls out indoor-outdoor carpeting to create a single large entertainment-living space accommodating up to five tables for guests. An outdoor barbecue supports work done inside in the kitchen.

Pennell added large wide steps to the deck to encourage the Warners’ guests to come down and enjoy the backyard, newly re-landscaped with native plants to help conserve

Orinda’s precious water. He also strengthened indoor efficiencies, improving the heating and water systems and insulation.

“Look at every path closely and deliberately,” wrote Carlos Castaneda. “Does this path have a heart? If it does, then the path is good.”

ARCHITECT:

Robin Pennell
Jarvis Architects
5278 College Avenue
Oakland, CA 94618
Telephone: (510) 654-6755
info@jarvisarchitects.com



Strategically placed French doors between the family and living rooms contribute to the home’s sense of spaciousness. The hardwood floors add warmth.

KATTENBURG ARCHITECTS

ORINDA



2009 Mayor’s Award for Architectural Excellence

WWW.KATTENBURGARCHITECTS.COM

(925) 253-7828

