



The Foleys chose rainforest serpentine countertops in their remodeled kitchen

Photo Ohlen Alexander

Walls were removed between the kitchen and the family room to add perspective. “My husband loves the view of the hills; by removing the kitchen wall we can now enjoy our view from the family room as well,” says Foley. They chose Premier Kitchens in Lafayette to design the space with dark cherry cabinets, quite different from the former light gray that was there before.

The countertops are made of rainforest serpentine, a kind of marble that’s stronger than regular marble. The slabs have been very nicely cut to hug the space, with some reddish veins that match and contrast with the rest of the room’s décor.

While this event is supposed to be a kitchen tour only, visitors to this house will enjoy the three-tiered garden with decks, entertainment areas and a Jacuzzi.

The two-hour tour will begin at 5 p.m. October 4. After touring the homes attendees are invited to the new Moraga Country Club Clubhouse for raffle prizes and a tour of the new MCC clubhouse kitchen. Information and reference material will be available at each home, along with the architects, contractors or homeowners who will respond to questions and brainstorm design solutions with guests.

Last year, the MCCKT raised \$6,600 for MEF and Moraga schools. Kitchen Tour tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 the day of the tour, and may be purchased at the Moraga Country Club front desk, Across the Way or online. For more information or to purchase tickets go to www.mcchometour.com.

The Summer Sizzle

by Andi Peterson Brown

Summer 2012 was a hot one for our local housing market. While the heart of summer is historically a slower selling season, this year was an incredible exception. In fact, last month was the best August that we’ve had over the past six years in the Bay Area.

Years of pent up buyer demand, historically low interest rates, and an overall lack of supply created an incredibly competitive environment this summer that initially caught many buyers, sellers, and Realtors off guard. We typically see buyer activity drop off towards the end of July as people take vacations and become distracted with other fun family activities. But because we had a competitive spring season—with many homes receiving between 3 and 15 offers in less than a week—we still had a lot of buyers out there who had lost out in multiple offer situations and who still needed a house. Add new buyers into the mix each week and the competition only increases. While 15 offers on a home in Lamorinda is nothing to balk at, well-priced homes in Walnut Creek and Concord were getting upwards of 30 offers last month. Wow, how times have changed!

Our local housing market is faring much better than the national housing market. If you’ve been thinking about selling your home, now is an excellent time. We have buyers lined up and ready to go. The only thing missing is the house.



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