

Kitchen Tour

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A sonoma tile that owner Shelly Barnes found in a tile shop is used as a backsplash for the kitchen's stove.

Photos Ohlen Alexander

The fronts of the two cabinet doors on either side of the hood are made of wire mesh, which allows the viewer to see what's inside but also gives depth and texture to the cabinetry. The large, honed light mocha-colored Juparana Persa granite island stands in subtle contrast to the creamy hues cabinets, giving the kitchen a warm and inviting feel.

"I like to build around a focal point," explains Barnes, who designed the kitchen herself and has also rebuilt two homes with her husband in their neighborhood.

Perhaps one of the kitchen's most enticing features is its view. Across from the island is a breakfast nook with a banquette against a large wall of windows looking out onto the back yard. The yard, which has a pool, fire pit and awnings hanging with wisteria, will be where lunch is served during the kitchen tour.

Nestled on a quiet street in Lafayette's trails neighborhood, Vickie and Dan Vradenburg's home features a clean, contemporary kitchen with a colorful Venetian glass island countertop made of recycled bottles and jars. Flecks of green, blue and brown glass give the island a pop of color over its dark walnut wood base and contrasts with the gray Cesarstone counters and lighter-stained wood cabinetry in the rest of the kitchen.

"My favorite thing is the island – it's such a functional piece of art," says Vickie, who has a long-time hobby of creating mosaics out of broken glass.

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The outdoor patio of the Barnes' home, which will be where lunch is served during the Lafayette Juniors' Kitchen Tour this year.