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April 25, 2014 3:09PM

The kitchens of your dream: Wellesley Hills Junior Women's Club Kitchen Tour

Spring is the season for inspiration, and that's what visitors who take this year's Wellesley Hills Junior Women's Club Kitchen Tour will take home with them.

Scheduled for Saturday, May 3, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., six homes in Wellesley will have their welcome mats out and their doors open. Executive sponsors of the fundraising event include Jill Boudreau of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, Yale Appliance & Lighting and Needham Bank.

Co-chairmen of this year's kitchen tour are Dianna Kanter and Christine Velyvis. According to Velyvis, "people were gracious and did come forward" when they were asked to participate by having their homes on the tour. Kanter said that when visitors see these residences, they'll realize that "it's attainable" when it comes to renovating, building or decorating their homes.

On Thursday, April 17, the Townsman toured three of the six homes that will be on the tour. Although the popular annual event is dubbed a kitchen tour, visitors will have the opportunity to check out other parts of the homes on their way to the kitchens. Here is what we found:

77 Chesterton Road

Peter and Laura Holland have had their homes on the tour three times. They move a lot.

Peter grew up on Linden Street and wanted his kids, Jules 13, and Jenna, 10, to have the experience that he had of walking to school and to the downtown area. The owner of Riverstone Custom Builders, LLC, Peter said when his younger child graduates from Bates Elementary School in 2015 he might finally leave the neighborhood.

His current home, built in 2013, is what Peter refers to as a "transitional" home – a category that falls between traditional and contemporary. Seventy-seven Chesterton Road also incorporates many "green" elements. Peter has also used reclaimed wood throughout the home. "Each piece has its history; we know where it came from," he said.

Of special note near the entrance to the home is the "Mom and Girls' Study," which has three work stations, each outfitted with a pendant light, a computer and frosted glass cabinets. The reclaimed barn door to the study was originally from Vanderhoof Hardware in Concord, one of the oldest hardware stores in the country. "It's nice to have the kids have their own space," Laura said about the set-up of their office.

The focal point of the kitchen is the island with the maple wood countertop in a custom stain. "I like the island countertop being wood. It has a more approachable feel to sit and hang out," Peter said. The cabinets are painted in Benjamin Moore's Chantilly Lace and the surround counters are black tempest polished granite. The backsplash is an Italian statuary carrara marble with a floral arrangement over the Wolf range.

To the right of the range is the breakfast bar, which has a spot for everything, including the coffee maker, toaster, microwave, cereal bowls and mugs.

Laura, who said she's not really into cooking, said, "We built it really well for the next people who want to use it," referring to her kitchen. Peter agreed, saying, "We built the kitchen as an amazing chef's kitchen for the next owner." So, an added bonus for a future owner is that it will still be in great condition when it's time to sell.

Although the home doesn't have a designated dining room, if somebody wanted to turn the family's "favorite room" into one it would be possible to do so. A sunlight-filled room during the day, it's where the kids like to gather, Laura said. When the family is entertaining outside (the patio is off this room) food is often served from counter space just below the big-screen TV.

Peter's advice for a homeowner is to "design it for how you want to use the space, not how you've been conditioned to use it in the past. Think about how you spend your time in the house and design it to that." He went on to say that he feels that the dining room is becoming less important when it comes to re-sale.

Peter said that his company tries to be energy efficient as much as possible. Their house, for instance, is wrapped in closed cell foam. It also has a highly efficient air exchange with filters. And, "we try to choose the material that is going to have low or no VOC (volatile organic compounds)," he said.

Peter is highly focused on re-using and re-purposing. He said, "I try to put as little [as possible] in the landfill with my projects."

He said that using re-claimed material not only adds character to a home, but it can also be a money saver. Other cost-cutting advice Peter offered is to buy a less expensive stove or refrigerator for the kitchen.

Peter said he feels good about supporting the Wellesley Hills Junior Women's Club by being on the tour and added that as a custom homebuilder it's also a good fit for his business.

"It's so neat working with all the designers and artists," Laura added.



A breakfast area in the kitchen of Peter and Laura Holland at their Wellesley home on Chesterton Road. Wicked Local Staff Photo / Brett Crawford

172 Hampshire Road

Jess and Mike Stanton have been in their home, which was built in 1961, for eight years.

"We did a lot," Jess said.

Architect Arnold Haynes built the center entrance Colonial, and when the Stantons decided that they wanted to expand it they began a significant renovation and addition with the help of their architect and builder, and design team, Haddad Hakansson LLC, in 2013. The family moved out during the renovation that included re-plumbing and all new HVAC.

Although Haddad Hakansson of Belmont specializes in kitchens, Mark Haddad, principal, and his design associate, Susan Cracraft of Wellesley, also worked hand-in-hand with the builder, architect and the homeowners on an addition and the renovation of the powder room, mudroom and family room. They also updated the colors on the first floor.

The kitchen is a clean, crisp white. Pennville Cabinets painted the maple cabinets white. The surround counters are super white Quartzite, and the island counter is Caesarstone in Raven. Take note of the built-in dog bowls. The coffee bar is one of Stanton's favorite features of her kitchen.

To showcase her collection of MacKenzie-Childs pottery, the shelving on which it's displayed has LED lighting. The lights over the kitchen island are also Mackenzie-Childs. "Those function," though, Haddad quipped.

The multi-level sink holds a strainer, so as not to take up valuable counter space or ruin the aesthetic. There are extra-depth cabinets, and Haddad Hakansson flush mounts all appliances. In the kitchen desk there's a drawer for the computer's printer and there are modesty panels on the desk through which cords slip down behind the molding to keep them out of sight. Appliances, usually found on a countertop, are stashed into a corner cabinet that features LeMans kitchen organizers.

Windows in the kitchen and adjoining family room have white plantation blinds.

Jess and Mike have two children, a 12-year-old son and a 10-year-old daughter. Jess enjoys cooking and said, "I'm one of the few people in the renovation kitchen who cooks."

The kitchen flows into the family room, and Jess said, "We spend 90 percent of our time in these two rooms."

Visitors should make a point of checking out the powder room in which Haddad Hakansson coaxed the Stantons to paint the ceiling black. There is even a petite crystal chandelier in there.

Jess said she was more than willing to have her home on this year's kitchen tour. She has enjoyed going on these tours herself in years past and was happy to bring attention to her architect, builder and Haddad Hakansson. In addition, she said, "The Juniors is a longstanding, great organization. It's a Wellesley tradition."

35 Parker Road

When approaching this home you would almost think you were in Napa, Kitchen Co-Chairman Christine Velyvis said about the contemporary Craftsman-style home belonging to Kathy Kavanaugh and Bob Jenney.

The house was built in 2012. The owners had previously lived on the property for 11 years in a small Cape before deciding to tear it down and build their dream home. Bob even has a blog about the process: bkcasa.com.

To bring the outdoors inside the homeowners incorporated many large windows and doors leading out to their wrap-around porch. All their custom-made windows and doors were designed to fit the style of their home. The windows are a 3-over-2 with the panes on the bottom being longer than those on the top. Many of the custom Jeld-Wen windows feature built-in roll-up/down screens, which provide the clearest view of the outdoors.

Toward the back of the house, on the left, is the dining room, separated from the family room by a custom cabinet unit that the owners designed. The cabinets have 3-over-2-pane glass, matching the house's windows.

To the right is the kitchen in which Kathy and Bob designed Shaker-style cabinets made from cherry wood with a natural finish. Everything has its place in this kitchen, and one of Kathy's favorite features is a pullout near the stove that has shelves for spices on one side and space for long kitchen utensils on the other. When she moved in, Kathy alphabetized all her spices.

The cooking area also includes an under-counter, GE Monogram combined microwave, convection and toaster oven.

"I love my dishwasher," Kathy said about her Swedish-brand ASKO appliance, known for its appearance as well as function and ergonomics. Energy Star rated, it also includes a Touch-Proof coating to minimize fingerprints.

In her former home Kathy was often off by herself in her little galley kitchen when she was entertaining. In their new home for 14 months now, they've had several large gatherings already. "This is where I have fun now," she said about her ample kitchen space.

"I love to cook and entertain and now I have everything I've always wanted," Kathy said, noting that everything in her kitchen is very functional. Since she wanted French doors on her refrigerator, with water access on the front, which takes up considerable space inside, she has two refrigerator drawers right next to it.

She has a designated drink area that has a machine that can make cappuccino, espresso, regular coffee and tea.

Bob's favorite part of the kitchen is the recycling area in the dual-level island. The cabinets below the island incorporate eight storage and recycling stations.

The island top is granite, in Antique Brown with a leathered finish. Other countertops are Caesarstone, in Lagos Blue.

They eat most of their meals at the island and take their computers there as well. They have a wireless docking station there, which allows them to charge an iPhone or iPad by simply placing it on the island. The kitchen has a SONOS sound system. Also controlled from an iPhone or iPad are their NEST thermostats.

Kathy and Bob do most of their entertaining in the kitchen and dining room, and to some extent the family room. Where those rooms are concerned they didn't want it to be obvious where the colors begin and end, so they chose complementary shades of paint, all Benjamin Moore: November Rain for the kitchen; Dry Sage for the dining room and Gray Mirage for the family room.

Kathy and Bob designed what they wanted their house to look like and worked with an architect and friends in the homebuilding business who were cycling friends of Bob. Kathy's and Bob's advice for anyone contemplating anything like they've done is to just do it. "The only thing I regret is we didn't do it sooner," Kathy said. She added, "This is one of the things that was fun for us to do together." "Ninety-nine percent of the time our choices align," Bob said.

When it came to agreeing to be on the kitchen tour, Kathy said it was because their architect, Kent Duckham of Duckham Architecture & Interiors, asked them to be. "I love my kitchen, and I'm happy to show it," she said.

If you go

WHAT

Wellesley Kitchen Tour

TIME

Saturday, May 3, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

WHERE

77 Chesterton Road

172 Hampshire Road

22 Norwich Road

35 Parker Road

108 Dover Road (Park on Buckingham Terrace or Stonefield Lane)

80 Livingston Road (café house). Sponsored by Limited to Endodontics. Donations from The Linden Store and Susu's Bakery.

COST

\$30 online at whjwc.org or at Roche Bros. in Wellesley, or at a Tour home on the day of the Tour for \$40.

INFO

Presented by Wellesley Hills Junior Women's Club. Proceeds to benefit local charities. Rain or shine. No children under the age of 18. No photos or videos. All shoes must be removed inside homes, and booties will be provided.

<http://wellesley.wickedlocal.com/article/20140425/ENTERTAINMENTLIFE/140427388>

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