

DESIGN + DECOR

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NANCY WOOD

TOSCANA HOMES

KEVIN REED

SOHO KITCHENS AND DESIGN

WHERE EXECUTION MEETS INTENTION

A BUILDER AND KITCHEN PARTNER PERSPECTIVE ON PRECISION,
COLLABORATION, AND BRINGING DESIGN TO LIFE

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL
CHANEL



A disciplined approach to cabinetry and layout creates visual calm—allowing functionality to feel intuitive and unobtrusive.

In the execution of a truly considered home, the builder's role extends well beyond construction. It is a discipline rooted in interpretation—translating design vision into something tangible while navigating the complexities between concept and completion.

For Nancy Wood, Partner at Toscana Homes, clarity, collaboration, and respect for architecture and lived experience define the firm's work. Building throughout Naples' refined neighborhoods, Toscana Homes is known for creating homes that are well-crafted and thoughtfully resolved, where every decision enhances the integrity of the whole.

In this feature, Wood shares insight into the realities of building at a high level—from navigating technical challenges to protecting design intent—revealing what it truly takes to bring a vision to life with precision and purpose.

TOSCANA HOMES | NANCY WOOD

D+D: From a construction standpoint, what did it take to bring this level of design vision to life?Nancy:

Nancy: The kitchen at 2231 Forrest Lane became a complete transformation from the original space we had built years earlier, using the same plan. While the footprint began from something familiar, the final result feels entirely reimaged.

In the original design, the pantry was enclosed, which limited both its functionality and its connection to the kitchen. Karen Larson of Broad Avenue Studios immediately recognized that opportunity and reworked the layout to create a more open, integrated space. From the outset, the client embraced this direction, which allowed us to fully commit to the redesign.

D+D: What construction challenge required the greatest collaboration between trades?

Nancy: One of the most complex elements was installing the large interior window between the kitchen and pantry. Because of its placement behind the range, it needed to meet strict fire-rating requirements, which meant sourcing specialty glass and coordinating closely to ensure both structural integrity and code compliance.

The process required precision at every stage. The wall had to be framed before fi-



Every detail—from millwork
to structural integration—
reflects a commitment to
execution at the highest level.



nal measurements could be taken, and because the window was sourced overseas, lead time added another layer of complexity. When it arrived late in the construction schedule, there was very little room for adjustment.

Installation demanded exact coordination between trades. Countertop height, range placement, and tile detailing all had to align perfectly, while maintaining a consistent jamb reveal on every side. On the pantry side, the window needed to sit completely flush with the drywall—there was no tolerance for variation.

It was a true team effort, underscoring the critical role of collaboration in executing design at this level.

D+D: In hindsight, what element of this kitchen will matter most ten years from now?

Nancy: Without question, it is the natural light. The expanded window openings and the connection between the kitchen and pantry bring a sense of openness that completely transforms how the space is experienced.

Design trends will continue to evolve, but qualities such as light, warmth, and openness will remain constant. Those are the elements that will continue to define the space long after specific finishes or details have changed.

SOHO KITCHENS AND DESIGN | KEVIN REED

While execution defines how a space comes together, it is often the precision of the cabinetry and millwork that ultimately determines how it performs. At this level, every alignment, reveal, and integration must be exact—leaving no room for approximation.

D+D: What cabinetry or millwork detail required the highest level of precision?

Kevin: Square inset cabinetry required an exceptional level of pre-

cision, particularly when integrating refrigerator panels and built-in appliances. Achieving a seamless appearance alongside adjacent cabinetry—while maintaining proper alignment of stiles and rails—can be especially challenging.

That same level of discipline applies when combining multiple smaller cabinets to create the appearance of a single, larger unit. In addition, logistical considerations, such as maneuvering fully assembled cabinetry into the home, introduce another layer of complexity.

D+D: How did integrated storage and functionality elevate the overall performance of the space?

Kevin: The strategic placement of appliances and work surfaces creates a highly efficient and intuitive workspace. The expansive island, featuring a 4-foot Galley workstation, is positioned just steps from the refrigerator/freezer and 60-inch Wolf range, allowing for seamless food preparation and improved workflow.

Base cabinetry and drawers beneath the expansive window provide organized, accessible storage while maintaining a clean visual line. Flanking the range, drawers are thoughtfully designed to house spices, utensils, and cookware—ensuring everything needed is within immediate reach.

A built-in coffee maker is integrated into the cabinetry to create a dedicated beverage station, complete with mug storage above and refrigerator drawers below. This level of integration enhances daily functionality while preserving the space's cohesive aesthetic. ♦

Resources: **Builder:** Toscana Homes; Nancy Wood, Partner; Naples, FL; 239.261.0600; toscanahomes.com . **Cabinetry:** SOHO Kitchens and Design; Kevin Reed; Naples, FL; 239.992.7646; sohokitchensanddesign.com .