

TRADITIONAL REDUX

Paul and Rodanthe Hanrahan had everything you could want in a kitchen: beautiful cabinetry, lots of storage space, a fireplace and a view of the Miles River in Easton. But the way the pieces came together was completely dysfunctional. The cabinets were dark and heavy, the fireplace was so close to an island it was hardly useful, and the existing floor plan did nothing to maximize the kitchen's water view.

"It was a beautiful kitchen to look at, but it didn't function well," says Rodanthe Hanrahan, an avid cook. "It was a rabbit warren of little rooms."

Hanrahan wanted a traditional white kitchen with big sinks and a place where she could cook and entertain simultaneously. Architect Greg Wiedemann, AIA, working in conjunction with kitchen designer Jennifer Gilmer, CKD, gutted the first floor. "Our goal was to reorganize the plan to create spaces consistent with the tradition of Eastern Shore architecture, while providing a more open, inviting kitchen," says Wiedemann.

The design added banks of windows to widen the view, while the open plan inspired a new, coffered ceiling. The floors were replaced with wide, distressed hickory planks. In the opened space, a central island became an anchor to the new kitchen. Gilmer designed an unobtrusive stove hood so Rodanthe Hanrahan could have her central cooking area in the granite island. A warm, unfinished walnut countertop wraps around the cooking space and extends into a large seating area. Hanrahan loves the wood countertops because "it makes the counter look like a piece of furniture," she says.

The renovation added two large sinks, each with a view, appliance garages to keep the mechanics of the kitchen tidied away, and a television on an automated stand that can rise up from the countertop or recede completely out of view. There is now a large dining area in front of the fireplace, which has become a grand focal point. When the Hanrahans' three college-age kids and their friends come to visit, there's ample room for all.

"I have never seen such a beautiful house on such a magnificent piece of property with an existing kitchen that completely disregarded all the glory that was there," says Gilmer. "Now this kitchen is just as warm and inviting as the rest of the house."

GET THE LOOK

Architect:
Wiedemann Architects

Builder:
O'Neill Development

Kitchen designer:
Jennifer Gilmer Kitchen & Bath Ltd.

Cabinets:
Premier Custom Built Cabinetry



Top: A central island with a cooking area and an unobtrusive stove hood anchors the renovated kitchen. **Inset:** The "rabbit warren" of small spaces made the existing kitchen difficult to use.

Bottom left: A large dining area in front of the fireplace adds plenty of room for Paul and Rodanthe Hanrahan's three college-age kids and their friends. **Bottom right:** The new kitchen design added banks of windows to make the most of the home's water views. PHOTOS COURTESY OF WIEDEMANN ARCHITECTS