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FALL 2015

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The designer difference in a **CHEF'S HOME KITCHEN**

BY PAULA ROY
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK HOLLERON

Built in the 1950s and 1960s, the leafy enclave of Whitehaven is among Ottawa's most eclectic yet charming residential communities. Michael Sobcov and Jennifer Frankland have lived there for over a decade, but only recently undertook a renovation which transformed their original custom-built kitchen into a stunning and highly functional hub. Having a designer

to help make the perfect choices in terms of layout, appliances and finishes was extremely important, given the volume of cooking that happens daily.

Michael is currently Chef at the residence of the Irish Ambassador to Canada, as well as teaching in the culinary program at Algonquin College. Jennifer is leveraging her own career in the restaurant business

to represent international housewares importing companies. The entire family, including their 18 and 19 year-old children, loves to cook and entertain, so their home is a very busy place.

"We were quite attached to the original kitchen," admits Jennifer, "but it was time for a change. It was crafted by a Dutch carpenter in solid cherry which had since been painted many times. The wood-edged laminate counters were wearing thin, and the lighting was problematic. Probably the worst feature was the 1980s Marmoleum flooring."

Michael and Jennifer enlisted the services of Lisa Poirier at Louis L'artisan after meeting her at the cabinet makers' Bourget showroom. "She is phenomenally experienced and while we had already done tons of research, we needed her to translate our vision into a logical plan," explains Jennifer. "She is a spectacular listener and we wanted the advice and expertise of someone who had done countless kitchens."



“We like how it’s kind of timeless. It could be contemporary or 1950s and we feel that it’s a space that both a 19 year-old and a 60-year old would think is very cool.

— JENNIFER FRANKLAND HOMEOWNER.

