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BLUE-HUED BEAUTY IN SADDLE RIVER

KITCHEN DESIGNER AND GENERAL CONTRACTOR: ANTHONY ALBERT STUDIOS, WALDWICK
INTERIOR DESIGNER: JANE PIERSON, JANE PIERSON INTERIOR DESIGN LLC, HO-HO-KUS
PHOTOS: BRIAN KLUTCH

For a Saddle River homeowner who wanted a larger and brighter kitchen but didn't want to endure an addition, Anthony Albert Passanante of Anthony Albert Studios in Waldwick worked a little demolition magic.

"Basically, we had a blank wall and on the other side was a hallway with closets and a laundry room," says Passanante, who claimed the closets to create a pretty and practical kitchen niche.

"Now it's the first thing you see."

Passanante accented the new space with a custom hutch that mimics the arch's graceful curves and houses a wine refrigerator and espresso machine. Crafted of antique mirrored glass and bronze and painted in a custom shade of denim, it "gives the kitchen a more glamorous and open feeling," the award-winning designer says.

Working as both designer and general contractor, Passanante completed the kitchen, which took first place in the 2012 ASJD, Design Excellence Awards, in just 12 weeks. That's an amazing feat given such bespoke details as the concrete kitchen sink flanked by relief carvings that match those on the hutch and butler's pantry; cabinet crown moldings of Delicatus granite to complement the countertops (both by Artistic Marble and Granite Surfaces in Hawthorne); and custom farm tables, finished in the same denim blue, that anchor each end of the island, both topped with dark wenge wood.

The designer took his color cue from a teacup in his showroom.

"Its shades of cream, blue and silver seemed to capture the homeowners' desire to lighten the space," says Passanante, who worked with Jane Pierson of Jane Pierson Interior Design in Ho-Ho-Kus to create a subtle, blue-hued backdrop for gleaming fixtures and finishes, such as Phillip Jeffries' silver leaf wall covering on the barreled island ceiling; the antique mirrored glass backsplash with a diamond leaf motif; and the elegant, chandeliered butler's pantry featuring a gleaming satin nickel half-vessel sink.

"There is a lot going on elsewhere in the kitchen, so I wanted to keep the floor very simple," says Passanante, who opted for the clean look of Italian porcelain tile by Mediterranean Tile in Fairfield. The shade perfectly complements the kitchen's custom, light cream cabinetry.

To create a soothing yet sophisticated look, the pair chose Benjamin Moore's Nantucket Fog for the walls, strategically accenting it with pops of blue throughout the room, including blue antique glass mosaic tiles on the hearth backsplash, blue Old Biscayne dining chairs and the hand-painted farm tables that anchor the island. On the windows, Pierson chose relaxed roman shades in a blue and green plaid by Highland Court. ➤

