

## kitchentrends

### Beauty After The Storm

Mother Nature's dark side brings new life to a dated kitchen

By Nichole L. Reber  
Photos by Ryan T. Kern

Most people only saw destruction in the wreckage of Hurricane Charley, but one Punta Gorda Isles couple saw the possibility for renewal. While they were lucky not to have sustained much more than water damage and a few skewed sliding doors to the interior of their house, they took the opportunity to transform their dated kitchen into something that showed their character.



"There was major water damage—like a deluge—coming through the second floor and into the dining room (below). The first thing we did was to tend to that leak, then during all that (the wife) said let's redo the kitchen," says Schuyler Galliano, the couple's design coordinator. "I tried to make a home for everything because the previous kitchen was not user-friendly and had lots of dead space."

To do that Galliano brought in Laura Wallace, a kitchen designer with Superior Stone Services in Sarasota. Together the two would transform the kitchen, finding a space for everything and reconfiguring it to appear more spacious. They bid adieu to 20-year-old grey laminate countertops, ripped drywall back to its studs, tore out the existing cabinets, and dropped soffits to accommodate a new exhaust system, plumbing and electrical infrastructure.

#### Dining in Spanish royalty

Today the kitchen is a place they enjoy again. Natural sunlight streams into the dining room and kitchen from windows and sliders leading to the veranda, which showcases canal views. Inside the island and a custom backsplash hold focal command and commence the natural color scheme that celebrates the husband's Cuban roots: espresso, cumin, and paprika, among other colors. Materials such as maple wood and hand painted travertine bring out the wife's collection of antiques, which are placed thoughtfully throughout the home.

Galliano and Wallace used the dining room set to initiate the old-world theme. Found during one of the wife's estate sale visits, the coffee-colored set, replete with king's and queen's chairs, evokes a turn-of-the-19th-century Spanish castle's dining room. It seats eight and, enhanced with plush red upholstery, punctuates the room with sophistication. The chairs bear clavos, a Hispanic term popularized in the early 20th century for polished nail heads bolted into upholstery for a trim, refined look. Finally, the table legs bear corbel-like hand carvings of swans.

Oversized Turkish travertine floor tiles with a chiseled edge lead into the kitchen where the elegance of carved wood sustains. Carved corbels at the work space and mini-bar flank the kitchen entrance. Another pair grounds the island in the center and another borders the cooktop.

#### Vintage marries modern

"This is a gourmet cook's kitchen. This is a gathering space. This is a workable kitchen," says Wallace.

Galliano and Wallace's creative use of cabinets manifests usefulness and luxuriousness. Maple Decora cabinets in a teaberry stain surround the range and run throughout the kitchen. The island bears cabinets in chantilly with an espresso glaze, preventing a weighty space, and its white Argentine granite countertops have a waterfall edge and carry through the room. Finally, a row of apothecary drawers holds small items, permeating the vintage theme, while what Galliano calls an appliance "garage" hides modern appliances the couple uses daily to prepare their favorite Cuban dishes.

The island and cooktop display luxury and timelessness before leading to the husband's semi-private coffee space. Galliano chose the kitchen's color scheme based on the octagonal mosaic tile backsplash that adds a burst of art to the space. The mosaic contains hand-painted tiles and is surrounded by other tiles that form a double listello.

"You get a medley of color. Not every stone is the same [so] it looks weathered... it looks old. The one tile you see in the center is the one that started it, and I just designed the kitchen around that. There are shades of Spanish green olives, cumin, dry mustard and paprika. The brick tiles surrounding the splash are in the color blanco and are

distressed looking but they're actually tumbled travertine," she says.

Stainless steel appliances and an outdoor kitchen bring out the couple's modern approach to life. That's apparent too in the architectural embellishments such as the arches that carry through the dining room and kitchen. Yet natural colors and materials maintain the timelessness and warmth.

Travertine floors, for instance, lead to teaberry stained cabinets and white Argentine granite countertops at the kitchen's denouement. There Galliano and Wallace converted the back of the kitchen from what had been dead space into a daily sanctuary for the husband. During renovations they knocked out cabinets, drywall, and more to renew the space with a stocked wine refrigerator, a wet bar, a sink, and an oversized espresso maker.

"Over in that area it was all pantry and a door. Now that's his zone. That's how she and I sold him on this kitchen," says Galliano.

Whether sipping espresso, cooking spicy Cuban dishes, entertaining, or enjoying a glass of wine while overlooking the canals, this kitchen has found that a storm often leads to rejuvenation.

## resources

**Interior designer:** Schuyler Galliano, allied member, ASID

**Kitchen designer:** Laura Wallace, Superior Stone Services

**Carpentry and framing:** Phi Max, Inc., Coventry Woodworking

**Cabinetry:** Decora Lexington style, Superior Stone Services

**Flooring:** Turkish travertine, Superior Stone Services

**Countertops:** White Argentine, Superior Stone Services

**Backsplash design:** Schuyler Galliano

**Backsplash material:** Ruben Sorheghi Tile

**Backsplash installer:** Superior Stone Services

**Sinks:** Artisan, Superior Stone Services

**Faucets:** Delta Victorian, McDonough Plumbing

**Paint:** Sherwin Williams, Rainbow Painting

**Range, warming drawer, microwave and outdoor grill:** Wolf, Mullet's Appliances

**Refrigerator and wine unit:** Sub-Zero, Mullet's Appliances

**Dishwasher:** Miele Optima

**Lighting:** Minka Lavery, Aston Court, Ken Tyner Electric

**Windows:** PGT WinGuard

**Doors:** Custom by designer, Knotty Alder speakeasy

**Hardware:** Baldwin, Madison