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## WELCOME TO OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

### Winner of NARI CotY Award for Kitchen Design



## Energy saving tips

Here are a few tips to keep more pennies in your pocket and help the environment at the same time:

- When buying new appliances, be sure to purchase energy-efficient Energy Star® models.
- Install energy-saver shower heads and low-flow toilets.
- Set your thermostat when heating to 68 or lower and to 78 or higher when using air conditioning.
- Replace old windows with high performance dual pane windows.
- Clean or replace furnace and air conditioning filters regularly.
- Set your water heater thermostat to 140 degrees or "normal."
- Check your dishwasher to see if you can set it to 120 degrees or "low."
- Fix defective plumbing or dripping faucets. A single dripping hot water faucet can waste 212 gallons of water a month!
- Wash only full loads in the dishwasher. Turn off the dishwasher before the drying cycle; open the door and let them air dry.
- Install shades, awnings or sunscreens on south and/or west facing windows to block summer light. In winter, open shades on sunny days to help warm rooms.
- Close damper on fireplaces when not in use.
- Check rotation of ceiling fans. In summer, set to rotate counterclockwise. Reverse in the winter.

## Napa Valley kitchen gets makeover

A bland white-on-white kitchen in the Napa Silverado Country Club neighborhood needed a makeover to meet the homeowners' sense of style as well as improve the family work space.

"A serene, contemporary look" was on the homeowners' wish list. No beige need apply! A modern color palette, slightly retro, with interesting architectural touches were Castle Rock's marching orders.

Updates began with the lighting. Six-inch can lights were removed, and replaced with two-inch lights, giving the room a sleeker modern look. Additional lighting illuminated many areas that were neglected before. Dimmers allow for more ambiance.

The windows were lowered to accommodate stone counters. The effect of matching the bottom glass of the windows with the countertop

was stunning, a visual trick that made the property's large oak trees be part of the decor.

All electrical outlets were hidden under the shelves and the edge of the countertops. Small appliances are neatly tucked away in rollouts, hidden from view.

A sleek island with a stainless steel countertop was built without corbels, keeping with the concept of "less is more." Shelves on either side of the range appear to float; support brackets are hidden from view.

Cabinets were custom built, then painted a sea grass green, complementing the stainless steel finishes on the new appliances from Viking. A warming drawer and microwave were installed where the previous refrigerator had been. A six-burner commercial range and oven replaced an outdated stove. The new stainless steel finish



refrigerator is conveniently next to the stove, within arm's reach for cooking.

The glass cabinet wall that had closed off the kitchen from the dining area was removed and replaced with fabric panels that glide into place when needed, creating intimacy for dining, or opened for a more spacious feel when desired.

Honed marble was chosen for a muted look near the cooking area. The original oak floors were stained a rich ebony, a perfect choice to accent the stainless steel. Hardware was a special order from Siro Designs.

The homeowners are delighted with the improved workspace, traffic flow and sophisticated aesthetics of their new kitchen.

"The project was seamless," said Lisa, homeowner. "I never worried about who was working in my home. Jim selected his sub contractors from his list of long-time relationships. It was as if each one worked for him directly. Jim managed all the aspects of the project, and recommended a cabinet designer who asked questions I would never had thought of such as 'What is the largest bowl you own?' Every little detail was attended to and the result is amazing. I love my kitchen."

In addition to a delighted homeowner, this project won a prestigious award from the National Association of the Remodeling Industry for the coveted Contractor of the Year (CoTY) for Kitchen Residential Design \$30K-60K category.



## Castle Rock certified by PGE as a high performance home contractor

Castle Rock Construction's management team recently participated in a two day course offered by PG&E, earning certification in high performance home construction.

This course demonstrates the importance of the relationship between: residential design, heating, cooling, ventilation, plumbing, electrical, thermal envelope, air barrier, moisture barrier, appliances and occupants.

A home's performance affects occupant safety, building durability, indoor air quality, comfort and energy savings. When done improperly, a homeowner's health or home can be put in danger.

PG&E's educational programs are a valued source of information for home safety, energy savings, health issues and cost savings.



## The tech corner: Green is good! How to save resources AND money

It doesn't matter where you stand politically or socially, lessening utility consumption makes sense. Electrical usage is measured in wattage, and the more watts you use, the more you are charged by the power company. Reducing your usage allows you to keep more of your hard-earned money. According to The California Statewide Residential Appliance Saturation Study, the average California household consumes roughly 8,000 Kilowatt hours per year.

Your home may be smaller or larger than the norm, and depending on your power usage, your gas and electric bill is most likely over \$100. It is not uncommon to see power bills near \$500 a month, and we have seen customers with power bills over \$3000 a month!

Even if your power bill rides on the lower end of the spectrum, making a twenty percent reduction in your power bill could represent some serious cost savings. Looking at a \$250 monthly power bill, twenty percent is \$50. Over the course of a year, a 20 percent savings would total \$600. This is not chump-change! More importantly, it is sensible living that can also provide tangible benefits to your lifestyle.



### Cost savings and improving your lifestyle?

Sounds contradictory, but there are products and programming solutions that can achieve luxurious benefits while reducing your power consumption, such as:

- Lighting control, including dimmers, motion detectors and timed settings
- HVAC controls (air conditioning, heating and ceiling fans schedules)
- Irrigation control (including rain sensors, timed lawn/garden watering, area control, dormant plant seasons)

**Give Jim a call to learn more: 707.421.8924**