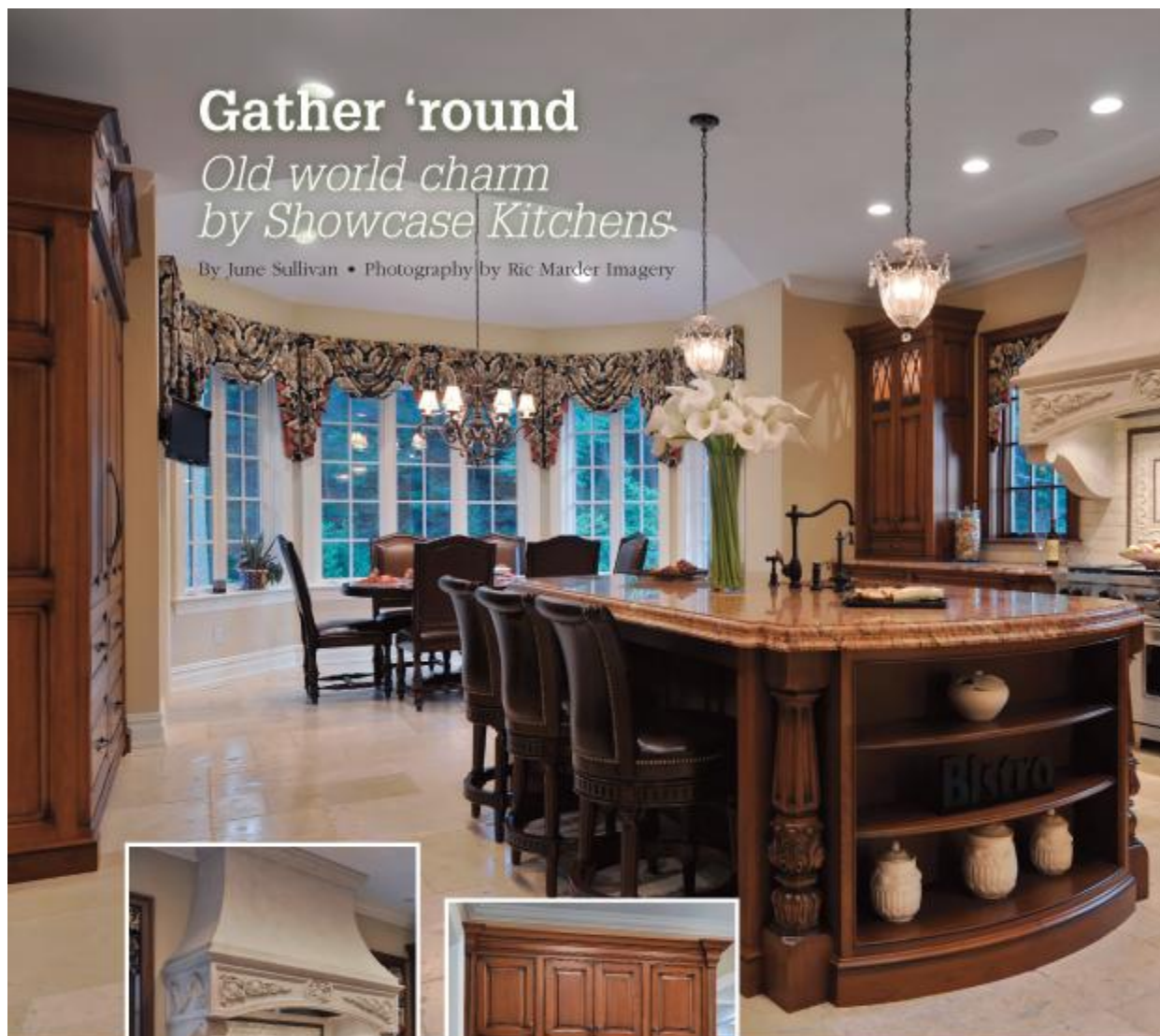


Gather 'round

*Old world charm
by Showcase Kitchens*

By June Sullivan • Photography by Ric Marder Imagery



Showcase Kitchens and interior designer Karen Arpino worked together to create backsplash that looks like framed piece of art.



Elegant stand-alone custom cabinet has been fitted with microwave

"When my wife and I began plans to build a new home in East Hills," says the husband, "before anyone else, we called John Starck [of Showcase Kitchens, in Manhasset.]

"John did the kitchen and home office in our old house," adds the wife. "We had such a wonderful experience, we wanted to bring him on board immediately."



Exotic "Rainforest Brown" marble on island and counters was chosen for its varied tones of brown-on-white veining, durability and long-lasting finish.

One of the first design elements Starck showed them for the kitchen was a magnificent reproduction 18th-century French range hood. It perfectly fit the "old world charm" of the French Manor style the couple had chosen for their home.

"To know them is to become one of their family," says Starck. "She loves to cook and they have family dinners together regularly. Because of that, I believe the limestone range hood



Kitchen floor in light gold and beige tones was crafted of thick vintage "Biblical Stone" reclaimed from streets in Jerusalem.

meant more to them than a lovely focal point. It is reminiscent of a time when kitchens had a working fireplace and everyone gathered there for warmth and togetherness, as well as food."

Also hearkening back to a by-gone era is the kitchen's elegantly detailed custom cabinetry. Every piece has been finished with a lightly burnished glaze that allows the cherry wood to shine through. A pediment on the room's exquisitely carved armoire-encased refrigerator includes an understated rosette and finial.

"We added carved columns to the base of the center island," says Starck, "and custom-mullioned grids over the glass of four top end cabinets."

Starck's kitchen design also includes plenty of food prep areas, storage spaces, up-to-date conveniences, as well as areas to congregate.

Beneath the range hood sits a 6-burner Wolf stove with grill, convection oven and side oven. The island has a built-in Miele dishwasher, eating bar and sink. An elegant stand-alone custom cabinet has been fitted with a microwave. Underneath are retracting pocket doors that hide

other counter appliances and under those is a hidden warming drawer.

Adjacent to the kitchen is a butler's pantry which also boasts period charm with similar cabinetry and an antique mirror. Its "Rainforest Brown" marble counters match those in the kitchen and the pantry is home to a Sub-Zero wine refrigerator.

"In addition to the kitchen, we asked John to do the cabinetry in the living room, family room and master bath, as well as in the home office," says the wife.

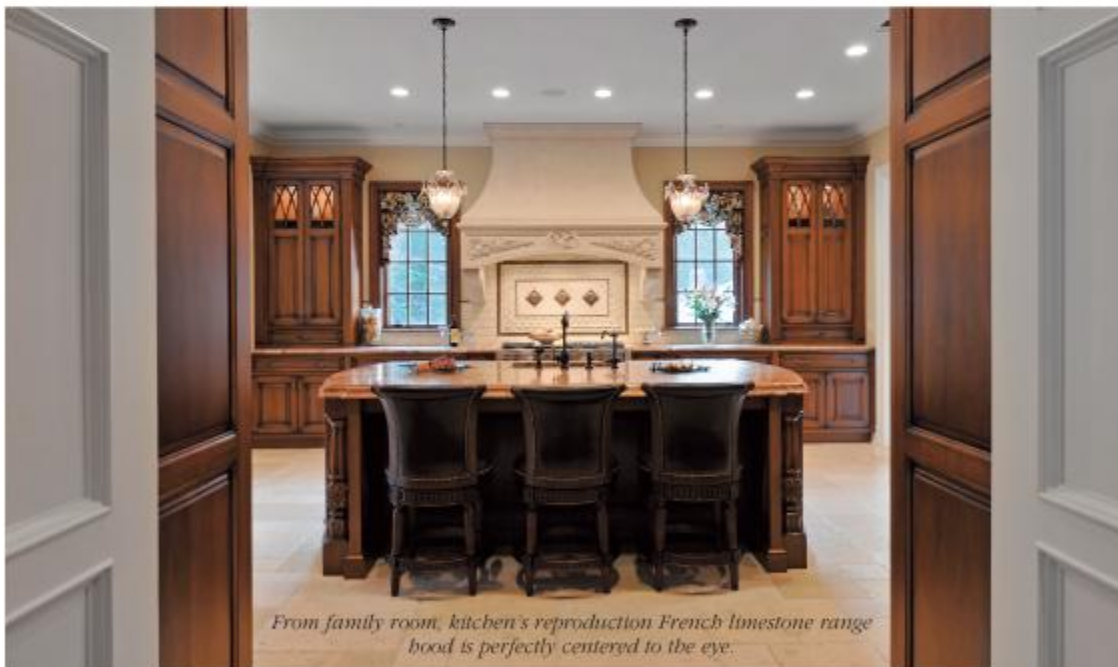
The architects for the project were Ron Zakary and Peter Hagemann of ZHA Associates, in Oyster Bay. "It was a pleasure to contribute to their lovely footprints in so many areas of the home," says Starck.

"We are fortunate to do a lot of work with John and Showcase Kitchens," says Zakary. "It is such a pleasure when trades are able to complement our beautiful architecture."

Perhaps no other space highlights Showcase Kitchens's complementary work more than in the home office. Here Starck's cabinetry design so complements ZHA's footprint it appears to be



Espresso coffee-finished custom cabinetry in family room offers handsome contrasts to crisp white coffered ceiling, paneling, trim and columns.



From family room, kitchen's reproduction French limestone range hood is perfectly centered to the eye.

attached architecture.

Another extraordinary accomplishment was Starck's vision for symmetry between the home's two most lived in rooms.

When looking into the kitchen from the adjacent family room, the kitchen's stove hearth appears perfectly centered. And when looking from the kitchen to

the family room, its brick hearth is also centered to the eye.

In the family room, Showcase Kitchen's "espresso coffee" walnut cabinetry, which



Above, Showcase Kitchens' custom cabinetry appears to be natural extension of wainscoting and window framing.



Left, in addition to creating separation between master bath's double basins, column shape of medicine cabinet repeats motif expressed elsewhere in home.

flanks the hearth, is not only ideal for media storage and displaying family collections, but it helps concentrate focus on the fireplace.

Everyone involved in the project, including the homeowners wanted to give a shout out to Joseph Muscat of Ultimate Construction for his wonderful achievement.

Starck was also delighted to again work with interior designer Karen Arpino.

"She did a wonderful job throughout. In the kitchen, for example, she added attractive swag and jabot window treatments, and a backsplash that is like a framed piece of art."

Arpino says that for the backsplash she used a mix of materials including natural stone

mosaic, porcelain and bronze metal design elements.

The interior designer adds she enjoyed working with Starck. "John was able to take the homeowners' vision and blend it seamlessly into the design of the house. The effect of his work is a beautiful, elegant creation that delights all who see it."

"My wife and I, as well as our children benefit from John's craftsmanship every day," adds the homeowner. "It's all around us. It is more than aesthetically pleasing. It is functional in every way." ■

