



HOMES • RESALE & RENTAL

Editor: Sheila Brady, 596-3709 • sbrady@thecitizen.canwest.com



PHOTOS BY CHRIS MIKULA, THE OTTAWA CITIZEN

Laurie and Gerry Martin were inspired to tear down walls and give their kitchen a complete overhaul after taking last year's Designer Kitchen Tour. 'It ended up exactly how I pictured it,' says Laurie.

Working kitchens



Before they renovated, Virginia and Michael Harrison's kitchen lacked style — and storage and workspace for their family of four. Now, the revamped space is warm and inviting with nutmeg-coloured Shaker cabinets, stainless appliances and gleaming black granite counters.

The heat is turned to high in six customized cooking spots that will be part of a tour to raise dough for Habitat for Humanity

BY KAREN TURNER

Anyone considering a kitchen renovation knows the biggest challenge is visualizing how their tired space will look with new cabinets, fancy stone counters or a reconfigured layout.

Next Saturday, Kitchen Craft Cabinetry hopes to take some of the mystery out of remodelling the hub of the home and raise money for Habitat for Humanity with a tour of six custom kitchens in private homes across the city.

From a tiny condominium makeover to a sprawling kitchen fitted with polished granite and traditional detailing, the second annual Designer Kitchen Tour offers an

inside look at real working kitchens from Barrhaven to Vanier.

Gino Vadicchino says showroom displays are helpful when choosing cabinets and finishes, but touring private homes to see how a kitchen is actually being used puts everything in perspective.

"The real benefit is that you're going into a real home. You can see how the kitchen relates to other rooms in the house and see how people actually live," says Kitchen Craft's general manager. "It really allows the imagination to soar."

Kitchen Craft launched its first fundraising kitchen tour five years ago in Vancouver. The response was so overwhelming, Mr. Vadicchino says, the company decided to

introduce a similar event in Ottawa last year.

It raised \$2,400 for Habitat, an international, non-profit organization that builds affordable homes for the working poor.

"People really like going into other people's homes to see what's been done and get decorating ideas," says Mr. Vadicchino.

Laurie Martin and her husband, Gerry, had talked about renovating the kitchen in their 1960s bungalow ever since they bought the house nine years ago.

But it was last year's kitchen tour that gave them the incentive to tear down walls and give their cramped kitchen a complete overhaul.

See KITCHENS on PAGE H2