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bringing the big picture



a reputation for
excellence and
expertise proves very true

By **Lindsey Getz**
Photographs by **Bob Graham, Jr.**

Top: While the focal point of this kitchen is the beautiful quartzite island, it has many other highlights, including a hidden pantry room and wine bar area.



Soapstone was utilized on the perimeter countertops and creates interesting contrast with the white cabinetry.

Since Nicholas Pupillo opened the doors to his custom carpentry business in 1956, it has rapidly grown. Still, Nicholas Pupillo & Sons has managed to maintain the values and top-notch workmanship upon which the company was founded. Now in its 55th year in business, the family-owned company continues to perform at the high standards that have helped build its excellent reputation.

In fact, it was Nicholas Pupillo & Sons' reputation that helped attract Collegeville homeowners John and Peggy to the company. They were looking to have their outdated builders-grade kitchen renovated. "The most important thing we were looking for was a timeless design that wasn't boring or standard," says John. "We wanted to stick with some fundamental design pieces but were also open to some new ideas."

Chris Pupillo, partner with Nicholas Pupillo & Sons, sat down



A hidden pantry room is the real gem in this kitchen. It is flanked by twin Subzero refrigerators, also hidden behind beautiful cabinetry.

design—but then they loved the next one even more. And by the time we got to the final design, the homeowners were obviously wowed and said ‘That’s it!’”

THE DETAILS

The custom kitchen cabinetry was done in a two-tone combination with a warm, white-painted finish, while the island was done with a traditional stain on cherry. “It creates tremendous contrast with the dark cherry and the off-white cabinetry,” says John. “In terms of picking out the cabinetry and design styles we had some ideas, but Chris was always a step ahead of us in the process. He was a true expert—an artist—and he not only knew what needs to go where from a functional standpoint, but also from a design perspective.”

For the perimeter countertops, the homeowners selected soapstone from the company’s showroom. But Pupillo suggested doing something lighter on the island so that it would really “pop” with the dark cherry. Initially the homeowners were considering marble, but because of the higher maintenance factor Pupillo suggested it might not be their best pick for the functionality they wanted. Instead he recommended they consider quartzite—not to be confused with quartz—which looks quite similar to marble but doesn’t have the maintenance factor. “Quartzite is as strong as granite but has the soft appearance of marble,” says Pupillo. “To give it even more of a wow factor, we honed it to keep the top consistent with the look of the soapstone finish.”

But perhaps what stands out most in the kitchen is a “hidden pantry room.” Double doors open up into what becomes not a small area with stacked shelves but an entire walk-in pantry room. Flanking the double doors are twin Subzero refrigerators, also hidden behind beautiful custom cabinetry. And all of this is tied together with an open-archway that makes the entire arrangement appear more like a built-in armoire than a kitchen set-up. “Chris framed it out so that it looked like a piece of furniture,” describes John. “You don’t expect it to be a full walk-in pantry behind those doors. That’s been a tremendous asset in terms of storage capability.”

AFTER THE KITCHEN

Following the kitchen project, the homeowners also enlisted Pupillo’s help to complete some additional first-floor renovations. Pupillo redid all of the hardwood floors, sanding, re-staining and finishing

with the homeowners and went through several versions of a design he put together. “John has an eye for these things so we went back and forth with some ideas,” says Pupillo. “They loved the first

them with a commercial grade finish to really hold up to wear and tear. Pupillo also did work in a room that’s used as the kids’ homework space, rebuilding it with new cabinetry, as well as a powder room where he upgraded all of the fixtures. And John says it was Pupillo’s vision of transforming a small butler’s pantry that connected the kitchen and dining room into a wine area. A wine cooler and matching cabinetry were installed along with a unique wood countertop.

In the end, John says that he and his wife couldn’t be happier with the results. “Chris was a tremendous asset for us,” he says. “He was someone that had an extensive background doing all of the types of things we wanted done. When you have to have surgery, you want a doctor that has performed that surgery many times before. And from our standpoint, we were looking for someone who was an expert. We had lots of ideas but we didn’t have the whole idea of what it would look like when it was brought all together. Chris brought that big-picture view and I felt like he treated the project like it was his own home. He did work from the beginning to end like he was doing it for himself, and that’s something I feel is unique.”

Nicholas Pupillo & Sons is located at 1967 West Main Street in Eagleville.

For more information, visit www.nickpupillo.com or call 484.392.8224. H&H



After a stellar job on the kitchen, the family enlisted Pupillo’s help for additional first-floor renovations, including this office space used for the children’s homework time.



A small butler’s pantry was transformed into a wine area and connects the kitchen and dining room.



A built-in wine cooler and beautiful cabinetry complete the wine bar area.