

# Built to Impress

*Combining function and design for the perfect entertaining space*

## **Stephanie and JP Gudka had been searching for**

the perfect home for over a year before finding one in Denver that spoke to their tastes, suited their needs, and fit their personal style.

One look at the superb kitchen was all it took for the couple to fall in love with the house, not to mention the builders themselves! “We were blown away!” Stephanie gushed about the showpiece kitchen that ultimately sold the Gudkas on the property after a long house-hunting period.

Michelle Kranker, designer and spec home builder at HappiNest LLC., along with her husband Steve, had designed the fix-and-flip property from the ground up. Michelle’s ultimate goal for the kitchen space was to create a luxurious, professional-quality haven for preparing and enjoying meals with family, friends, or one-on-one.

“Designing a kitchen from scratch is magical!” exclaimed Michelle, who worked closely with Nick Amato at Cornerstone Building Solutions, Randy Brown at Appliance Factory Fine Lines, Alpha Cabinetry, and Colorado Surfaces to >>





execute the kitchen of their dreams. Michelle's favorite element of the project was the boundless creativity involved with functional design, which is evident in every aspect of the Gudkas' high-end, transitional kitchen.

The lavish space appears to have been crafted by the kitchen gods themselves, with an ultra-luxe quartzite slab kitchen island, ample cabinet and storage space, and innovative touches like the chef's office, built-in china hutch, and dual-zone Thermador wine fridge. Professional chefs would feel right at home in the Gudkas' kitchen, thanks to the extraordinary, high-performance Thermador appliances. Michelle personally selected Thermador appliances for the kitchen for their "pure luxury". In addition to the wine fridge, the space accommodates a professional-grade Thermador gas rangetop with stainless hood, double oven, and 54-inch column refrigeration.

Medallion cabinets richly painted White Icing offset light gray countertops for a clean and modern feel,



while the subway tile backsplash adds texture and visual interest without dominating the kitchen. Minimalist pendant lighting hangs over the kitchen island – the third pair of pendant lights that were installed before the homeowners were able to make a decision. The stunning effect of the light fixtures suggests that the Gudkas chose wisely!

As Michelle and Steve Kranker are all too aware, even the most perfectly-planned kitchen remodel is not without its calamities. A mishap involving an open window and a rainstorm caused a minor hiccup in an otherwise smooth construction project. "A window left open accidentally one night destroyed part of the breakfast room hardwood," explained Michelle, adding, "What a learning lesson!"





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The Krankers enjoyed working with Stephanie and JP to put finishing touches on the kitchen, along with other elements of the home, and were delighted by the homeowners' excitement and love for the design elements they had added. "They love the new kitchen, especially the chef's office!" Michelle said. The chef's office was born from an idea that Michelle had to utilize the extra room next to the kitchen. With ample space for cabinets on both sides of the wall, space for files, a hidden



A bold 48-inch professional-grade rangetop by Thermador with ultra-efficient star burners.



printer, and open shelving for cookbooks and special dishes, the room is ideal as a small office where the home owners can work, while still being close to the kitchen and family room.

The Gudkas are overjoyed with their new Denver home, especially the upscale, restaurant-quality kitchen. “We have to give all the credit to Michelle. She has exquisite taste!” says Stephanie. “We look forward to celebrating holidays with family, parties with friends and making delicious meals together. We can cook, relax and enjoy!” Stephanie adds, of her hopes for the entertaining aspects of her new kitchen.

For homeowners looking to upgrade their kitchen spaces, Stephanie shares heartfelt advice: “The kitchen is the heart of the home to be enjoyed by all. It brings everyone together and makes a house a home.”

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