

# Ariane Delafosse



European footings give her an appreciation for functional design and innovative solutions



INTERIOR PHOTOGRAPHY BY PETER RYMWID

When selecting appliances, Viking Featured Designer Ariane Delafosse, CKD, often takes her clients to the showroom of Carl Schaedel & Co., Inc. in Fairfield, New Jersey. This Viking distributor was the sponsor of the 2003/2004 New Jersey Viking Design Competition, in which this project was a finalist.

But this time there was no need for a showroom visit — Rhonda and Marvin Wyche knew what they wanted and had already selected Viking as their appliance brand. Marvin had been in the restaurant business and was already leaning that way. But what really sealed the decision for Rhonda, whose profession is medicine (OB/GYN) but whose passion is cooking, was her son, a firefighter in Montclair, New Jersey.

When her son's firehouse was up for renovation, Rhonda explains, his colleagues insisted on Viking. In exchange, they donated their labor for the remodeling. The firefighters did the work, the project came in under budget, and they've never enjoyed cooking more. "I fell in love with Viking when my son gave me a tour," says Rhonda.

## Meet the designer

Ariane Delafosse, CKD, is a designer whose European footings give her an appreciation for functional design and innovative solutions. A lifelong love of art and appreciation for nature started Ariane on a path leading to a degree in Landscape Architecture at Rutgers University, Cook College. After graduation, Ariane quickly made a name for herself at the prestigious Zion & Breen landscape architectural firm.

In the mid-90s, Ariane decided to make a career change and seized an opportunity to learn the profession of cabinet/kitchen design under the supervision of a skilled cabinet craftsman. Ariane's background in Landscape Architecture has contributed to her ability to create a relaxed atmosphere where ideas are freely exchanged and logic helps expedite decisions. She easily adapts to change, but, at the same time, carefully and persistently manages the design process, always being upfront about practical matters such as timing and cost, and providing the follow-through that ensures results exceeding expectations. As part of the Canterbury Design team in Morristown, New Jersey, and active member of her local NKBA for the past seven years, Ariane has been making a significant mark in her profession and looks forward to continuing along this path for years to come.

### Project details

Their kids were growing up and the Wyches could have built a new home with all the amenities, but they had raised their four boys in the 102-year-old stucco house on 1-1/2 acres in South Orange, New Jersey. They loved the home and the family memories it held. They decided to renovate and selected Ariane as their kitchen designer.

The house was a charming, eclectic blend of period amenities — high ceilings, stained glass and leaded windows — “Nouveau Victorian,” says Rhonda with a smile. The kitchen was something else — dark, crowded and unworkable, typical of the kitchens of its era.

Ariane's concept was to transform this existing space into a classic cooking environment befitting a majestic home and a client with a passion for cooking. “One of the challenges,” she recalls, “was that the available space was taken by a huge professional-style

range in the center of the room. It left no space for several participants in the cooking process at the same time. “The space was gutted and opened up, with all the appliances along the wall and the floor space open and inviting — “a true working kitchen,” in Rhonda's words.

The Viking range & hood are positioned in a corner of the room providing the best ventilation access to the exterior of the house. This also created a dramatic focal point as family and guests enter the room.

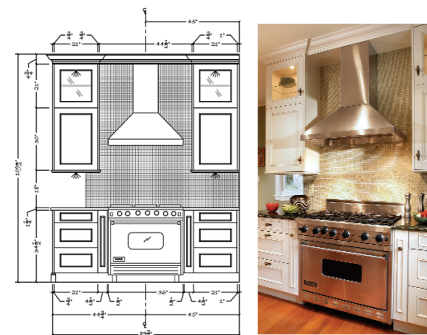
The Viking refrigerator is full overlay with panels and specialty hardware designed to blend into the space, not dominate it. On the wall to the right, the Viking oven, microwave and warming drawer offer great cooking flexibility within easy reach.

Cabinets are light colored, elevated in appearance to maximize storage, and resemble the old style kitchens/pantries of the past. The cabinet details are simple and clean to maximize efficiency and ease of maintenance. Soft green mosaic backsplash tile, walls and granite counters add a serene feel to the space and complement the new wood floors.

### ‘I love my kitchen’

Rhonda couldn't be more pleased. “Everyone congregates in our kitchen, and it's absolutely amazing to me how inviting the design is,” says Rhonda. “It's utterly, utterly wonderful. I love it.” She also loves her Viking appliances, not just for their appearance, but also for the control the gas range and ovens give her as a cook. “All you have to do is cook with Viking and you get spoiled,” she says. “You ask yourself how you ever worked without it.”

To find out more about Ariane, click on the “Designers” link at the top of the page at [canterburydesign.com](http://canterburydesign.com).



### VIKING APPLIANCES

- 36"W. Viking Overlay Refrigerator/Freezer, DFBB363L
- 36"W. Viking All Gas Range 6 Open Burners, VGIC365-6BSS
- 36"W. Viking 6" Height Backguard, T36BG6
- 27"W. Viking Built-in Electric Single Oven, VESO177CSS
- 24"W. Viking Microwave, VMOS200SS
- 27"W. Viking Microwave Trim Kit, VMTK270SS
- 27"W. Viking Warming Drawer, VEWD172SS
- 36"W. Viking Chimney Hood, DCWH3644SS
- Viking Interior-Power Ventilator Kit, DIV600
- Viking Hood Duct Cover Extension, DCCE1210