

FOURTH QUARTER 2006 VIKING FEATURED DESIGNER

Designer Convection Microwave DMOC205-SS
Designer Refrigerator/Freezer DDBB363R-GG
Designer Beverage Center DUAR141FR-SS
Designer Range Hood DCWH4244-GG
Designer Cooktop DGCU165-5B-SB
Designer Oven DESO101-GG





Cindy Collins

Matching Viking appliances complement the clean, minimal look of custom cherry cabinets in a coffee bean finish inspired by Japanese farmhouses.

More than 25 years of design and custom manufacturing experience with Cucina Kitchens and Baths went into Cindy Collins' design for this residence on the bluffs overlooking the ocean near San Luis Obispo, California.

"It's a timber-framed home that has exposed beams of sycamore and fir, with mortise and tenon joinery, all secured with black walnut pegs," explains Collins. "Because of the architecture of the house, the home called for a clean, minimal look, emphasizing the Japanese design idea of 'living more with nature,' in the owner's words."

Floor to ceiling windows pull the outdoors into the home and the interior accentuates the scenic views. "It was necessary for me to keep the cabinets low profile and lower in the room to keep the sightlines open to these beautiful views. The focus became more on the design and the craftsmanship."

Integrating Viking appliances with custom cabinets

Cucina built the custom cabinets to integrate with the Viking appliances. "They are cherry with what we call the coffee bean finish, which we chose because a lot of dark woods are used in traditional Japanese farmhouses. We also used the color to keep a sleek, contemporary room with clean lines feeling very warm."

The sleek, warm feel of the kitchen was accentuated by the seamless integration of the appliances and the cabinets. "It feels more like furniture in that room, with the appliances mak-

ing a major contribution to the overall look," says Collins.

"Working with a suite of Viking appliances was very appealing to me. We paid careful attention to the details. The cabinet pulls were designed to mimic the handles of the Designer Series appliances," she says. "In addition, we used the Graphite Gray Viking finish, because I felt it really complements the cabinet finish. It gives the room a more homogeneous look so that the cabinets and the appliances really become one — giving the room a completely integrated look."

Space planning and custom cabinets

Collins began studying architecture and design on the east coast at Ramapo College, Mahwah, New Jersey and continued at Phoenix College in Phoenix and Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona. Collins is experienced in industrial, and commercial design, as well as residential projects.

Her specialty is space planning. Collins uses a time and task management method when designing a kitchen, arranging "zones" that relate to specific tasks.

For over 25 years Cucina has been producing a wide range of challenging projects. "Our products have been shipped worldwide, and our residential projects have taken us around the country and as far away as Puerto Vallarta, Mexico," says Collins. Their kitchen and bath showroom features a line of cabinets that are manufactured in house as well as three other



lines of cabinets and products related to the kitchen and bath industry and manufactured by outside sources.

In 1985, they relocated the business to San Luis Obispo County, California, where they began to produce the area's first true European cabinets, exclusively using the European system of casegood manufacturing. Although their focus has primarily been residential projects, they have continued to provide fine office interiors for special clients.

In 1990, they opened their first showroom in the city of San Luis Obispo and became the first (and only) fully custom manufacturer to provide a complete design service. "Over the last fifteen years, we have continued to refine our design approach of maximizing kitchen ergonomics while meeting the project's aesthetic criteria with the same quality and attention to detail as is customarily found in the finest furniture," says Collins. For more information go to www.cucinakitchens.com.