



Linda McLain

Blends the old and the new to create a kitchen of simple, classic elegance in this seaside resort home.

VIKING PROFESSIONAL KITCHEN APPLIANCES

- 48"W. Dual Fuel Sealed Burner Range w/ 6 Burners & Griddle VDSC487-6G-SS
- 48"W. Island Trim B48TI
- 48"W. Custom Ventilator System w/ Interior-Power Ventilator Kit VBCV4838/VIV1200
- 48"W. Built-in Side-by-Side Refrigerator/Freezer w/ Ice Maker VCSB483-SS
- 15"W. Undercounter Ice Machine VUIM150DL-SS
- 24"W. Undercounter Wine Cellar w/ Glass Door VUWC141R-SS
- Hidden Control Dishwasher w/ SS Interior DFUD042P-SS
- 1.5 cu. ft. Convection Microwave Oven and 27"W. Microwave Trim Kit VMOC205-SS/VMTK275-SS

VIKING PROFESSIONAL OUTDOOR KITCHEN APPLIANCES

- 41"W. Ultra-Premium Gas Grill w/ Rotisserie and Infrared Burner VGIQ410-3RT-L-SS
- 36"W. Warming Drawer VEWD162T-SS
- 41"W. SS Cabinet w/ Storage Drawers to house Grill and Warming Drawer VOQW4120-SS
- 18"W. SS Pull Out Trash Cabinet w/ Drawer VOTP1810-SS
- 24"W. Wok/Cooker VGWT241T-L-SS
- 24"W. SS Cabinet to house Wok/Cooker VOKB2601-SS
- 24"W. SS Sink Cabinet VOSB2402-SS

Some 20 miles south of Charleston, South Carolina, is one of the best-kept secrets of a region known for its historic architecture and world-class restaurants. A secluded barrier island called Kiawah, home to a resort community of the same name that is known for its magnificent, unspoiled seaside location, fabulous golf courses and other upscale amenities.

Coastal Living magazine chose Cassique, a Kiawah island Development, as the site of its 2005 Cottage Retreat Idea House, which was described this way by one of the architects, Stan Dixon: "The house is made for casual living. It's not about formalities — it's about the beach. It's about being together." When completed, the development's 39 homes will emulate English country houses.

Viking Featured Designer Linda McLain worked closely with Rick Broome, the Charleston-area sales representative for the Viking distributor,

HADCO, who assisted in specifying and design as it related to the Viking appliances.

She credits the team of architects from McKellar & Associates of Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina, and Interior Designer Jackye P. Lanham of Atlanta, Georgia, for their vision in design and selection of materials. It was very much a team effort that brought about the success of the project.

Linda McLain, CKD, is co-owner with her husband, James McLain, CKD, of Signature Kitchens & Baths of Charleston.

Simple elegance

The exterior architectural style of the house is English Cottage. However, the interior design theme is a blend of the architectural theme and the seaside location. Native marshlands, tidal creeks, and indigenous vegetation provide the setting for use of a color palette of sea glass and natural interior colors. "Old is mated with new to make a





statement of simple elegance," says Linda.

Stainless Viking appliances anchor the design and complement the simple painted custom cabinetry by Wood-Mode. The stucco hood is painted to match the adjacent walls with wood trim painted to match the cabinets. It is a focal point of the range wall but not an overpowering one, as it appears to blend seamlessly with the walls and cabinetry.

The kitchen's lowered ceiling sets it apart from the rest of the great room, from which it can be closed off by sliding glass on tracks. To give the space a sense of history, an antique dressmaker's table was topped with granite to serve as an island. Details are understated. It's a working space. "This kitchen is about featuring main appliances instead of hiding them," says Broome.

In keeping with the natural setting, the home also features a number of Viking Professional outdoor appliances, including a Ultra-Premium Gas Grill and a Wok/Cooker.

About the designer

Linda has been in the construction field since 1972. She entered the kitchen and bath industry with no specialized training in kitchen and bath design, nor any sales experience. She did, however, have a strong background in cost accounting and estimating. She was comfortable with plans and blueprints. "When I got into the business, it was a lot easier than it is now, and I grew with the business," she recalls.

Linda received her CKD certification in 1993, but credits most of her knowledge of design and her business acumen to 29 years of experience. She thinks her most valuable attribute is her ability to listen well and relate to her clients' individual tastes and preferences.

A history buff, she appreciates Charleston's rich heritage and treasures the opportunity to work in its historic homes. Her award-winning designs are regularly featured in the pages of national, regional and local magazines.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRIS & CAMI PHOTOGRAPHY

Linda and Jim are proud of their new 7,200-square-foot showroom, which occupies the same site as the original showroom of one-third the size. "My husband and I make great partners," she says. "He is a licensed builder and an exceptional designer. He designed and built the new building, making most of the decisions, while I took over most of the responsibilities of keeping our business operational. By siting the new building to the back of our property, he was able to almost complete it before he demolished our former site of 27 years."

Their showroom was designed to create a total environment experience that engages all the senses. The new space has allowed Signature to properly showcase and integrate its appliance offerings.

To find out more about Signature Kitchens and to see a gallery of their work, go to signaturekitchens.net.

"Appliances weren't as important when I started in the business," Linda recalls. "Now I tell my clients to start with the appliance list. Should they be showcased, or integrated? Do they want a professional look, or a designer look? Tell me what you want, and I'll fill in around it."

Linda sees Viking as being responsible for much of the new focus on appliances. "We enjoy Viking," she says. "It has automatic name recognition. When people walk into a new kitchen and see Viking, it's like a guarantee of quality."