the Real Housewives of the Jewish Community
Meet four women who bring honor to the term

Focus on Health
Cardiologist Daniel Scharf looks at the future of heart disease

Remodeled Kitchen
Combines contemporary design and treasures from foreign travels

Kibitzing in the Kitchen
Contest winner loves making Jewish food
Remodeled kitchen

combines contemporary design, soft tones and textures, and treasures from foreign travels

By Heather Swan
Photography by Steve Powell/Something Different Media Group
Inspiration comes when and where you least expect it sometimes. For Dr. Andrew and Lynn Kaufman, the inspiration for their kitchen remodel came when they were walking past a showroom in Salzburg, Austria. The couple had spent the day in Salzburg and were walking back to the train station when they passed the Bulthaup showroom.

Bulthaup — a German company known for its minimalist and contemporary kitchen designs — caught the eye of the Kaufmans that day, and that chance passing was the starting point for their kitchen transformation.

Local architect Byron Emas had helped the Kaufmans in several home projects, including giving the kitchen in their contemporary Mission Hills home an “extreme facelift.” They called on the architect again for the second remodel of the kitchen — this time starting from scratch. Although inspired by Bulthaup, Emas’ design was something they liked even better.

The first big change was tearing out the wall that divided the kitchen from the dining room/living room.

“That’s the beauty of this,” said Lynn, a social worker, of the opening up of the space. “It made such a difference ... I did not know what I was missing.”

With Portfolio Kitchen & Home’s assistance with the custom birch cabinetry and Emas’ design, the Kaufmans’ kitchen is now an efficient and visually appealing space where they can comfortably entertain two to 30 people — depending on the occasion. For dinners with one other couple, the Kaufmans eat at the curved acrylic kitchen table designed by artist E.H. Waldman. Larger gather-
The birch cabinetry in the Kaufmans' kitchen has a subtle design of inlaid bands. On a storage cabinet facing the dining room, a curvilinear glass top on metal feet almost looks invisible.
The built-in acrylic kitchen table was made by artist E.H. Waldman.
ings can spread out to the dining room table in the open space adjacent to the kitchen.

The result is a combination of soft tones, light and dark woods, frosted-glass cabinet doors, stainless-steel appliances, a backsplash of small charcoal gray glass mosaic tiles, and a floor of ridged charcoal tiles interspersed with smooth reddish tiles. For a floating effect, thin CaesarStone countertops have a small space or "reveal" underneath. And, on a storage cabinet facing the dining room, a curvilinear glass top on metal feet almost looks invisible.

The overall look is clean and monochromatic without being austere and cold.

"We like the angles and the textures," said Andrew, a neurosurgeon. "We don't like squares and rectangles."

Although not a huge space, the Kaufmans were able to get the maximum use out of what they had.

"We have 40 percent more storage in the same amount of space by very effective use of design," Andrew said. "...We were concerned about preserving the amount of space and we got more space.

"That's the value of the architect."

Two slide-out pantry cabinets provide ample storage space; a garbage chute takes trash to a lower-level bin.

Emas also noticed all the little decorative pieces the Kaufmans had collected from their travels (pieces small enough to fit in suitcases) and designed display space to showcase their collection from around the world. On the cherry display shelves you will find many primitive pieces from Ethiopia, such as gourds that are used for kitchenware there. For the past three years, Andrew has taken a month-long trip to Ethiopia to do volunteer teaching and surgeries.

Another change to fit their lifestyle was the addition of a sliding glass door in the kitchen. The door leads out to their grill, which they use year-round.

The Kaufmans — members of The Temple, Congregation B'nai Jehudah — love to cook fresh food. Andrew says he specializes in desserts, and Lynn makes lots of soups.

Their kitchen now fits their lifestyle and is accommodating to their guests.

"Everything is very functional and very useful," Andrew said.
For a floating effect, thin CaesarStone countertops have a small space, or “reveal,” underneath.