



An oversized island of leathered quartzite has a quiet drama in the surface texture as well as the faint glint of gold veins. The Prolific sink from Kohler features beveled tiers and accessories that make it a multiple-use work station that also looks great.





Sliced thin enough to be translucent, the backlit Turkish onyx from The Stone Collection has a pulsating warmth when illuminated.

## Touchstones

**For a Southlake couple** fond of entertaining, it was high time to streamline their kitchen's floor plan and refresh the space. Original owners of the 6,500-square-

foot home built almost two decades ago in the Timarron development, Lori and Dave Burr readily agreed they wanted a primarily white kitchen, but one that felt unique. Getting out of the starting blocks was a little more difficult.

"My husband was really the driver of the project," says Lori.

"I had to talk her into moving forward," Dave agrees.

Enter Julie and David Walsh, design-build consultant and contractor at their company Sterling Renovations & Design, and Ann Bridgman, who owns Just the Thing Decorating, Staging, and Windows. The design pros collaborated with the couple to transform a serviceable kitchen into a showplace. Lightening the space, which opens to a family

room that likewise enjoyed a makeover, was a priority, but innovation remained key to all plans. "Everyone in Southlake has a white kitchen," says Walsh. "We

By Lisa Martin Photos by Ralph Lauer

knew we needed something a little different." White Shaker-style cabinetry softened by a bead routed into the frame become one answer.

But the wow-factor difference took the form of natural stone mounted as a back lit 103- by 80-inch onyx wall. The Turkish slabs, a mere 2 centimeters thick, are beautiful enough, but at the flip of a switch, the translucent stone emits a warm glow that highlights its layered bands of minerals.

"The discussion of the onyx dominated our Monday-morning meetings for months," says Walsh, who notes that the Burrs first encountered an onyx countertop at a charity showhouse. "It's such fragile material that the showroom



A cool-to-the-touch Wolf induction cooktop was a priority to the Burrs who have small grandchildren. Hammered metal gives the bar sink from Expressions Home Gallery a memorable panache. The Burrs purchased the matte brass Kirkland trestle fixtures from Savoy House Lighting.



# Touchstones



wouldn't sell it to us until we picked it up. It's held up with custom made clips because glue would show through from behind, and we also needed access in order to change out the bulbs."

Removing a butler's pantry opened the space for the impressive focal point and also allowed the designers to create a massive island topped with Belvedere granite from Africa, softened by a leathered finish. Dramatic black, with veins of gold for an understated shimmer, the stone's quiet appeal is equal to that of the showy onyx. "When developing a design with a customer, I often say, 'Let's find one thing that you absolutely love, and then we will work all the other materials around that,'" explains Bridgman. "For the Burrs, it was the granite for the countertop."

Lori's favorite new kitchen feature is a rollout baking center strategically tucked underneath the island, another practical utilization of space. Counter-height bar stools covered in grandchild-friendly faux leather flank the edge closest to the family





Fans of entertaining friends and family, Lori and Dave Burr wanted a kitchen that felt uniquely their own.

room. Another nod to the little hands in the family is the Wolf induction cooktop; the burners hold almost no heat.

“We had the onyx and the granite and the white cabinets, but something was missing,” says Bridgman. “It wasn’t until Julie’s daughter, Catherine, who did the computer-aided designs for the project, suggested a black hood trimmed in brass that everything came together.” Dave Burr admits to having felt unsure about the matte black hood with champagne-colored brass trim, but he agrees that once it was installed, the custom piece made the kitchen.

Catherine also proposed the brass and glass shelves flanking the hood, which Walsh brought to fruition. Rivets on the shelving coordinate with the hood, made by a man in Dallas “who won’t let me give out his name because he’s so busy,” says Walsh.

“The irony is that high on our wish list was to get rid of the gold accents, but we ended up using brass in the kitchen anyway — and we love it,” Dave says.



A built-in Thermador wine cooler was high on the couple’s wish list.

Other additions to the kitchen are as practical as they are good looking: A built-in Thermador wine tower on the refrigeration wall is an oenophile’s — and good host’s — dream, and the wet bar’s hammered metal sink, just below the onyx wall, is ideal for filling with ice during dinner parties.

Warm, useful and pretty, the Burrs’ kitchen renovation is chock full of wish fulfillment in a welcoming space that defines the heart of this home. 🍷

#### THE DETAILS

**Remodel** David Walsh, owner/contractor, and Julie Walsh, owner/design-build consultant, Sterling Renovations & Design, 817-421-4477, [sterlingrenovationsdfw.com](http://sterlingrenovationsdfw.com)

**Interior design** Ann Bridgman, Just the Thing Decorating, Staging, and Windows, 630-709-5709, [justthethingdecorating.com](http://justthethingdecorating.com).

**Floral styling** Donna Smith, Out of the Garden, 817-416-6653, [outofthegarden.com](http://outofthegarden.com)

**Food styling** Logan Carter, 214-578-4777, [logancarter992@gmail.com](mailto:logancarter992@gmail.com)