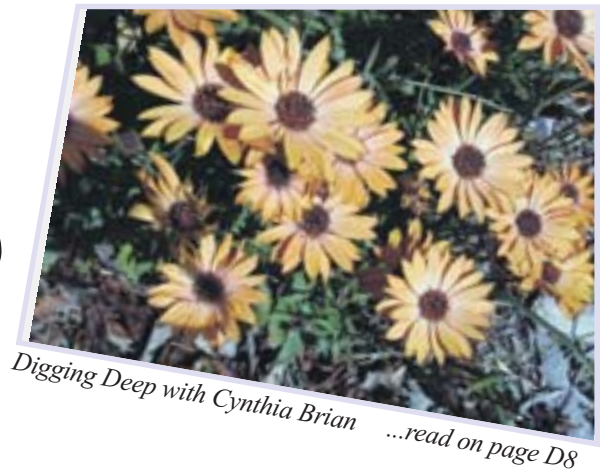


Lamorinda OUR HOMES

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Lafayette Juniors' Kitchen Tour Returns with Six Unique and Stylish Kitchens

By Rosylyn Aragonés Stenzel



Big windows to bring the outside inside

Photo Andy Scheck

This year's 13th Annual Lafayette Juniors' Kitchen Tour scheduled Saturday, May 19 features six newly-constructed or recently-re-modeled kitchens in a variety of house styles including a green/sustainable mid-century modern, Cape Cod classic, Tahoe style and a Hampton's style rancher. Each kitchen is unique and individually stamped with the homeowner's personal taste, yet all offer the very latest in concept and design.

Here's a sneak peak at two of the homes on the tour:

Bringing the outside inside is what immediately comes to mind when walking into John and Gwenn Lennox's kitchen. Located at the north end of the house to make the most of the views and the quietness of the backyard, the kitchen is bright and open with high ceilings, a wall of windows, and lots of natural light. The large windows highlight the vistas of the

trees with the outside view seamlessly blending with the inside. Designed with the view in mind, corner windows complete the panorama.

To the Lennox family, being green was paramount to the process of rebuilding their home. Originally a 1950s ranch house, the new home is a mid-century modern designed by architect Greg Faulkner. Throughout the whole house and in the kitchen, they chose materials with the least impact on the environment and without product ending up in a landfill.

They used granite remnants for the countertops, employed cross ventilation rather than mechanical fans or air conditioning, chose concrete radiant heat floors made with fly ash, and selected plywood cabinets with a maple veneer finish (with no chemical off gassing) rather than using all hardwood.

In keeping with the non-symmetry of nature, none of the cabinet doors are the same or symmetrical. Faulkner echoed this theme with different elements throughout the home. During the design process, they were very thoughtful in deciding storage options, Gwenn Lennox says, as fewer overhead cabinets meant putting plates and other kitchen items in drawers that normally might be stored above.

Being green is natural for Lennox who spent 17 years working in energy conservation at PG&E. "When going green, it's not just any one thing," she says, "it's more of a thoughtful, overall approach on the materials and in the design on the home."

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