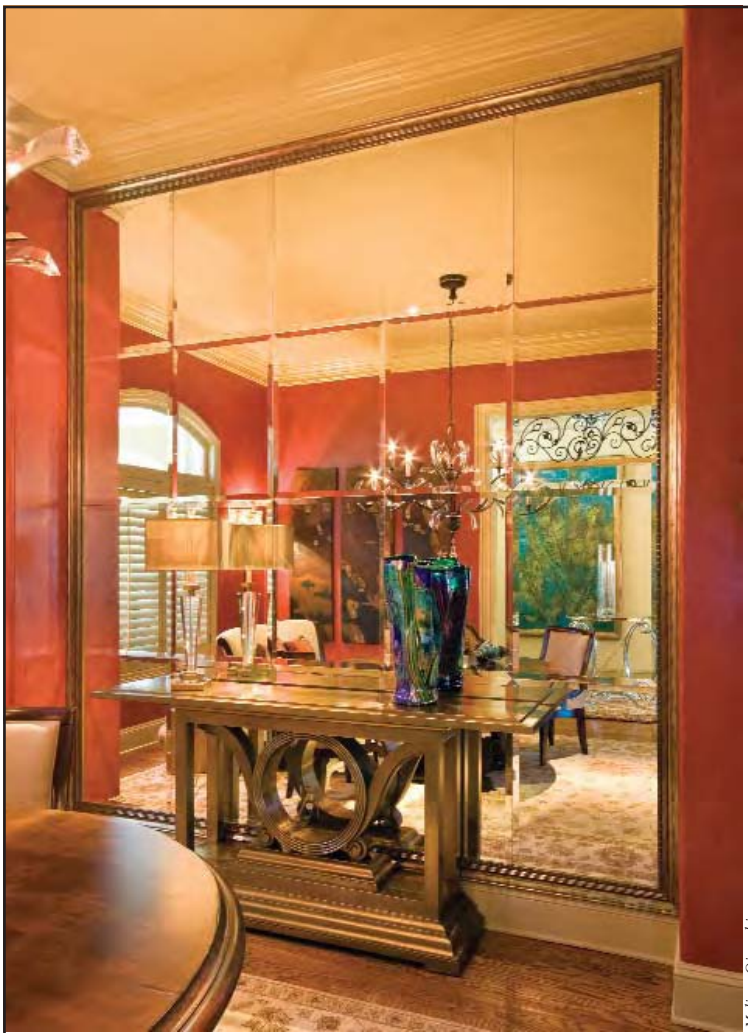
The Kitchen
Sylvia McLain

A pretty room doesn't have to skimp on practicality, no more than Italy's lovely landscapes and arts would exclude its cuisine. Sylvia McLain's design ideas for the kitchen began with a desire to customize the space to the personalities, lifestyles and history of the warm-natured Italian homeowners. "Charming Italian style accentuated by exquisite southern views are the key design elements of this very special kitchen," says McLain. Rustic beauty emblazons the features of this room, starting with authentic hand-trawled Venetian plaster walls. Warm, earthy colors please the eye with a mix of sage and ochre tints.

The challenge to accommodate a wide range of kitchen duties was met in the array of Jenn- Air appliances, which do justice to an Italian family's love of cooking: dual warming drawers, two dishwashers, a professional series stove, an ice maker, a microwave, cappuccino machine and coffee service center by Thermadore. The custom handmade stove hood is by Raw Urth Design. An oversized country sink and plumbing fixtures are by Kohler and Southern Bath & Kitchen.

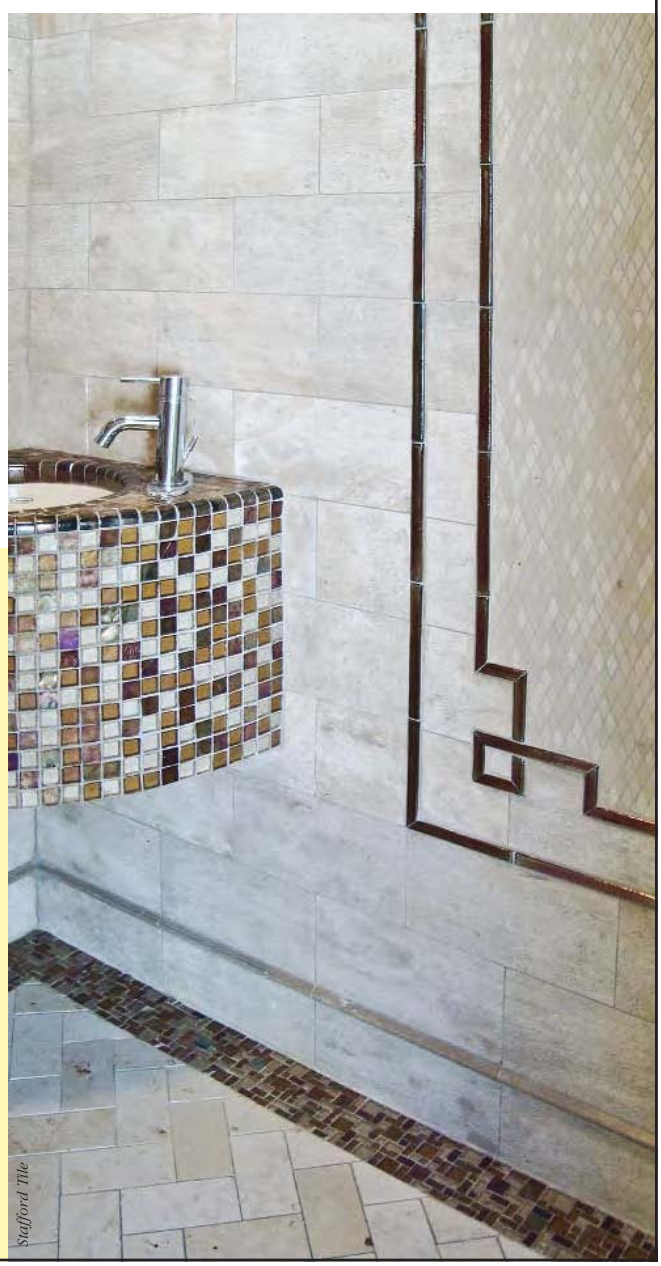
The cabinetry, designed by McLain, built by Tim Simon Cabinetry, Inc. and finished by Lafayette's Pazazz and Cody Musgrove, boasts a five-step finish that uses a combination of green-friendly Benjamin Moore products from Harrison Paint Company: a dry sage base coat, turtle green trim, Putnam ivory glaze, gold leafing accents highlighted with hand-painted details by Lisa Boudreaux and a gel stain with antique finish. Exotic granite was used, including Capalovro with a leather finish for the island and polished Omega Gold for the countertops. The Granite was provided by Massimo Exports Inc. and fabricated and installed by Precision Stone and Granite, both of Lafayette. The Walker Zanger designer tile backsplash was supplied by Stafford Tile & Stone of Baton Rouge. The dirty-top antique pine floors, reclaimed and recycled from a demolished horse barn in New York's Central Park, make this a "green" kitchen, as does the instant continuous hot water system. Custom-designed Julie Neill Design lighting makes a statement of modern sophistication. The custom fabric used on the Albarado's barstools was supplied by Interior Fabric Choice. The Italian landscape print was specially chosen by the family for its native authenticity.



Melissa Owanki

Mirror
R & D Builders and Design
Baton Rouge

The dining room alcove in this Country Club of Louisiana residence is brought to life with an accent wall of beveled mirrors, which complements the beveled crystal chandeliers and sconces in the room. Custom framing completes the metropolitan look. Rod Miller of R & D Builders and Design was the designer and contractor, while M & M Glass Company LLC of Baton Rouge completed the installation.



Stafford Tile

Backsplash—Bathroom
Stafford Tile & Stone
Baton Rouge

The products used in the half bathroom of the Stafford Tile & Stone retail showroom were selected by Peggy Stafford to showcase the beauty of the natural stone and limestone alongside the handmade craftsmanship of the glass tile. The materials used included Oceanside Glass tile on the sink in a mosaic blend called Coppertone, with rounded glass bullnose trim on the sink edge. The walls are Walker Zanger limestone cut in a 6 by 12 foot brick pattern, with Oceanside glass traverse liner that frames a limestone diamond mosaic. The floors are a Walker Zanger limestone in a 3 x 6 foot herringbone pattern framed with Oceanside Coppertone blend mosaic in the facets pattern to appear as a rug pattern.