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# The right remodel

*Carrollton's Kitchen Design Concepts featured on HGTV*

**BY SENITRA HORBROOK**

STAFF WRITER

A kitchen designed by a Carrollton design firm received top honors earlier this month on the HGTV show "Bang For Your Buck," which pitted three area kitchen remodels against each other.

"The kitchen is the most commonly remodeled room in the home," said Mary Kathryn Reese, founder and co-owner of Kitchen Design Concepts with Jennifer Sherrill. "It's kind of affirming to have a show with the experts say what you did in partnership with your clients beat the national average by 10 percent and was the best return of the three kitchens they looked at."

Homeowners Ginger and Rick Blazek of Coppell submitted their kitchen when they heard HGTV was looking for Dallas-area kitchen remodels.

"We were thrilled to be selected for the show, and the guys who shot it were so much fun. Meeting (host) Vern Yip was a bonus, and he was very kind and interested in what we did to our kitchen," said homeowner Ginger Blazek. "As the time for the show drew nearer we got a little nervous about seeing ourselves on TV, but they were so good to us. Our kitchen is beautiful, and the photographer really did it justice. I would do it again in a heartbeat."

The Blazek's kitchen, located in Coppell's Waterside Estates neighborhood, is a Tuscan-inspired design, with elements selected to create the rich, organic feel of the Tuscan countryside - from the large teak island and farmhouse sink to an earth tone palette and cork floors.

Looks played a part in the Blazeks' desire to remodel, but they also wanted the kitchen to live up to the quality of cooking in their household. Much of the design was created around the needs of hobby chef Ginger, including a marble baking slab, a pot-filler for convenient pasta-making and a hands-free sink that can be activated by food-covered hands. Rick has his own "man corner" incorporating a flat-screen TV, wine rack, commercial-grade refrigerator and a prep sink where he can help chop or serve drinks to guests.

The Blazek's \$90,000 kitchen remodel, completed in



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

From left, Ginger and Rick Blazek, homeowners, Mary Kathryn Reese, co-founder and vice president of Kitchen Design Concepts and Jennifer Sherrill, co-founder and president of Kitchen Design Concepts stand in the Blazek's remodeled kitchen.

# HGTV

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spring 2007, was projected to add about 80 percent, or \$72,000, to the value of their home. That figure exceeded both the national average return of 70 percent and the return of the two other kitchens featured on "Bang for Your Buck" episode.

Reese said that a \$90,000 kitchen remodel is above average, but not in the highest group for the Dallas area. She said a remodel in Carrollton is usually in the \$30,000 to \$50,000 range.

Reese and Sherrill opened Kitchen Design Concepts in early 2007. Reese and Sherrill both previously worked at the senior management level in corporate America.

"We traveled domestically and globally quite a bit. We wanted to participate in

raising our children," Reese said. "I'm a culinary enthusiast and Jennifer has a lifetime of remodeling experience with her dad."

Reese said the big trend now in kitchens is to open them up.

"Folks are spending more time in their home, casually and entertaining," she said. "It's all about making that kitchen a little bigger, accessible and easier for folks to walk around in."

Reese noted there is an increased consumer awareness of options available.

"Folks are investing in the kitchen ... and want for things like full extension drawers, pull out pantries, things that make kitchen fully functional," she said. "They want to get the full functional use of these beautiful cabinets they just bought."

Reese has also seen an increased awareness of green products, like bam-

boo cabinetry and appliances that are Energy Star rated or qualified.

The company has showrooms in both Carrollton and the Lakewood area of Dallas. The Carrollton showroom has 3,000 square feet of space with eight cabinet displays, backsplashes, countertops and photography of different kitchens they've completed.

"You have to strike a balance on what's important to you," Reese said about kitchen remodels. "We have tools on our Web site to help people decide. In some families, the microwave is the most important appliance. For the people that are more culinary, they have a tendency to focus on the function than the form."

Kitchen Design Concepts is located at 2741 East Beltline Road, Suite 113, near Marsh Lane. For information, visit [kitchen-design-concepts.com](http://kitchen-design-concepts.com).