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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2009

PHOTOS COURTESY OF AMIEE SHEAHAN

Ginger and Rick Blazek, left, are the homeowners of the Tuscan-inspired kitchen in Coppell. At right are Mary Kathryn Reese, co-founder and vice-president of Kitchen Design Concepts and Jennifer Sherrill, co-founder and president of Kitchen Design Concepts.

BON APPÉTIT!

Blazek's kitchen gets kudos, receives top honors on HGTV

BY JIM KILPATRICK
STAFF WRITER

Home and Garden Television (HGTV) recently featured three Dallas-area kitchen remodels on its popular "Bang For Your Buck" series.

Top honors went to Coppell residents Ginger and Rick Blazek for a sound investment in creating a Tuscan-inspired kitchen.

"The idea for the kitchen was drawn from our travels in Tuscany," Rick said. "The colors and feeling of the countryside were incorporated in the design."

The Blazek's tried to get on the show in 2008 but were disqualified as their project was too expensive. They were called in 2009 and asked if they were still interested.

"We said yes," Rick said.

The kitchen, located in Coppell's Waterside Estates neighborhood, was praised by HGTV host Vern Yip as "the perfect marriage of function and aesthetics." Yip and his co-host, local real estate expert Robyn Freese, estimated the Blazek's received an 80 percent return on their remodeling investment, exceeding the national average return of 70 percent.

The design and execution of the remodel by Kitchen Design Concepts was projected to add approximately $72,000 to the value of their home.

"We were thrilled to be selected for the show, and the guys who shot it were so much fun," Ginger said. "Meeting Vern Yip was a bonus, and he was very kind and interested in what we did to our kitchen."

The nerves didn't hit the Blazek's until just before going on TV.

"As the time for the show drew nearer we got a little nervous about

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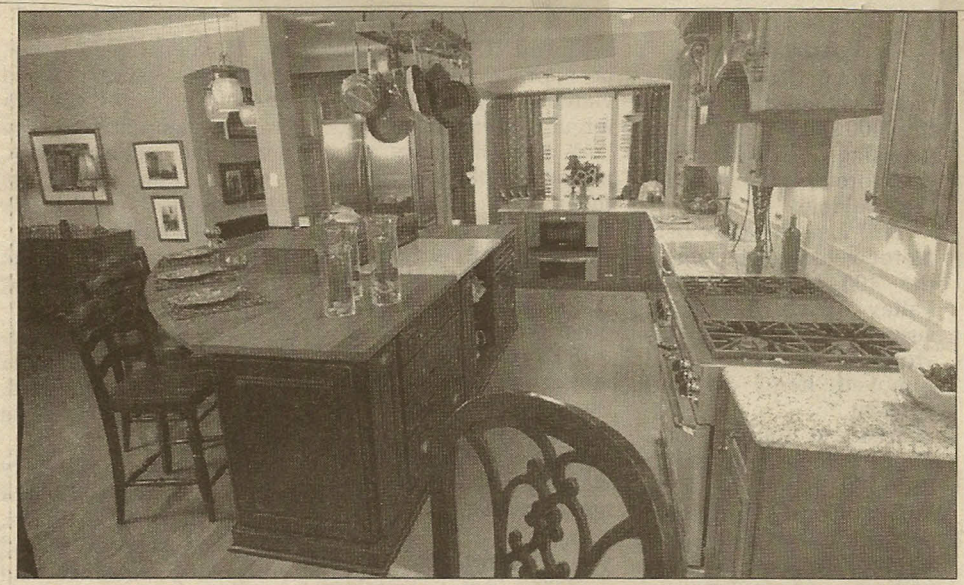

TUSCAN

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seeing ourselves on TV, but they were so good to us," Ginger said. "Our kitchen is beautiful, and the photographer really did it justice. I would do it again in a heartbeat."

According to Jennifer Sherrill, president of Kitchen Design Concepts, a kitchen upgrade is one of the most reliable investments that can increase the value of a home.

"In this economic climate, now more than ever, homeowners want to know that the money they're investing is wisely spent," Sherrill said.

Among the elements in the Blazek's winning kitchen were its creative mix of complimentary materials, large Teak island, commercial-grade appliances and windows, and French doors bringing in light from the outdoors.

"I really pushed for the windows," Rick said.

Looks played a part in the Blazek's' desire to remodel, but they also wanted the kitchen to live up to the quality of cooking in their household.

"Ginger is a skilled hobby chef who loves to entertain and bakes almost daily for friends and neighbors," Rick said. "Many of the designs were created around her needs, including a marble baking slab and a hands-free sink."

Rick added that the kids in the neighborhood are always sampling the cookies she bakes almost daily.

Rick is the official taster and assistant chef in the house. He even has his own "man's corner," which includes a flat-screen TV, wine rack and prep sink where he can help chop items for the chef or serve drinks to guests.

For information about Kitchen Design Concepts visit www.kitchendesignconcepts.com or one of their showrooms in Lakewood or Carrollton .

"Bang for Your Buck" is aired on HGTV and is one of cable TV's top-rated networks. For information, visit www.hgtv.com.