



Bistro Chavez

A Kirkland kitchen recalls a neighborhood hangout

By Jessica Campbell Photographs by CJR Photo Inc.



WHEN ROD AND SHANNON CHAVEZ were building their craftsman-style home in North Kirkland, they liked to fantasize about walking down the hill to Bistro Provençal to “eat a little too much, drink a little

too much and walk home,” Rod says with a laugh. Then one month after the Chavezes moved into their new house, the 27-year-old restaurant closed its doors.

The couple channeled their epicurean impulses into their own kitchen, which might not be Bistro Provençal, but *is* conducive to merrymaking. A massive island in the center of the room draws guests like

**A STAINED-GLASS SKYLIGHT
(opposite, above) LENDS
CRAFTSMAN CHARACTER TO
THE CHAVEZ KITCHEN. THE
BREAKFAST NOOK (opposite,
below) INCLUDES A STORAGE
DRAWER FOR SON BOBBY'S
TOYS AND ART SUPPLIES.**

a magnet. Perched on bar stools or with their elbows propped on the island's kirkstone counter, guests enjoy wine and appetizers while taking in the expansive view of Seattle and Lake Washington from the large window above the farmhouse sink.

Pantry space is tucked into every available corner, and a dumbwaiter brings groceries up from the garage. Ovens were placed below granite counters on either side of a commercial cooktop so Shannon and Rod could work in tandem while preparing for dinner parties.

Stainless-steel appliances don't diminish the craftsman character of the room, which architect Curtis Gelotte enveloped in honey-colored vertical-grain fir paired with lighting, cabinet hardware and decorative backsplash tiles designed in the arts and crafts style.

Contractor Brad Kelleran's attention to detail is evident in the craftsman-style benches and tables built into the cozy breakfast nook.

"Life revolves around the nook," Shannon says of the space, which accommodates family dinners as well as 4-year-old Bobby's art projects and science experiments.

Interior designer Hilary Young of Barbara Leland Interior Design helped the Chavezes choose colors and finishes to create a warm, convivial atmosphere.

"We're loungers, we're slouchers, we're not sit-up-straight kind of people, so we really wanted this to be a warm, comfortable place," Rod says.

Not unlike a favorite neighborhood bistro. ■

Former Assistant Editor Jessica Campbell now resides in Chicago.