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BARBARA BARRY
Exclusive Interview

87 pages of
**INSPIRING STYLE +
HOME REMODELS**

At Home With Terry Porter
**HAMPTON STYLE
COMES TO THE WEST**

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TEAM WORK

WRITTEN BY DONNA PIZZI PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREG KOZAWA

IT'S ALWAYS A TALL ORDER to restore any older home, but when veteran NBA player Terry Porter, formerly of the Portland Trail Blazers, and two-time head coach in the league, purchased a three-story home in Portland with his wife Susie and their three teenaged children in September 2009, that order grew exponentially. Not only did the project need to be completed by early spring for school registration issues, but the workmanship had to be top notch as well.

Luckily, Susie Porter is a woman with experience, having moved countless times over the past 20 years, and successfully created just as many tasteful homes, including one she helped to design. By all accounts, she's also a great cook, terrific mother, and superb entertainer, who came to this project with clear ideas and a decisive manner that helped to get the down-to-the-studs project completed in a miraculous 6 months' time despite winter weather challenges, and holidays mixed in.

"Experience is everything," says Terry. "Although Susie doesn't have a degree in interior design, she's had so many opportunities because of my career to work through a lot of different kitchen designs that she knew exactly what she wanted for this house."

"Whenever we start a new house project," adds Susie, "I create a file right away, filled with styles I like torn from magazines to give the design team good, clear direction." All of this experience came into play, when the Porters began interviewing contractors to undertake the challenging remodel that would uphold the home's original historic elements.

"Although we met with various contractors," recalls Susie, who asked Chicago interior designer Susan Ormsby to look over the project with her, "friends of friends recommended Brian and Jeff Bohrer of Cornerstone Construction Services, who were very good, very efficient and easy to work with."

Echoing the white palette for the Porters' new kitchen, Sammy's Flowers in Northwest Portland designed a stunning floral arrangement mixed with white hydrangea, French heather, spray roses, red bud wax flower and tulips, accented by the homeowners' pomegranate.





After perusing hundreds of lighting catalogues, Susie Porter chose this trio of honeycomb glass candlelights from Lux Lighting to illuminate the center island in the newly reconfigured kitchen. Impossible-to-find old growth hardwood floors salvaged from upper floors were used to patch areas torn up during construction. A Madrone butcher block table doubles as a food prep area when not in use as dining. Arte Italica dinnerware, serving pieces, bar ware, and topiaries are from Bella Casa.



Brothers Brian and Jeff believe it was their innovative ideas for the whole house remodel and six and seven-day work weeks that gave them the winning edge. They teamed with architect Joe Krause of J.E. Krause Architect, and Chuck Buller, owner of Park Place Wood Products, Inc. “We spent an incredible amount of time sitting in front of plans with the architect” recalls Brian. One of the challenges of the whole house remodel included replacing a complex heating system that enabled them to maintain the original cast iron radiators throughout the house.

Cornerstone had architect Joe Krause on site during construction to confer over structural changes that needed to take place in the kitchen. Together, they worked with Buller and Susie to help her realize her “sophisticated, yet casual” kitchen design. “We problem solved together,” says Buller, “to make sure we were maximizing the job so nothing was missed.”

To gain square footage in the kitchen, eliminate an awkward entrance, and improve the flow of traffic, the Porters wanted to incorporate a hallway that once separated the kitchen from the front of the house into the space. “When you first walked in,” recalls Terry, “there was only one way to get into the kitchen, and a butler’s window halfway down the hallway, with no access. By tearing out the structural, load bearing wall and replacing it with a series of well-engineered steel beams, the team was able to open up the space.

ABOVE When the wall of windows over the sink forced the Sub-Zero refrigerator to be located across the island from the cooktop, a pair of stacked below-the-counter refrigerator drawers were installed beneath the island sink to make food preparation handier near the stove. A below-the-counter Dacor microwave that prevents loss of upper cabinet space became an instant hit. Buller designed this piece of stand alone china hutch furniture to catch the eye as one enters the 5’ wide entrance from the former atrium. Not seen are a desk work area at right, and a cherry stained radius banquette set against a 72” round Baker table that seats 7-8 people.

Susie and Terry Porter and their standard poodle Duchess enjoy the remodeled kitchen. “I’m not a cook,” admits Terry, “I give all the kudos to my wife in that area, but the new layout helps me get around much easier.”



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Kitchen duties are more enjoyable thanks to these light-filled windows installed over the relocated farm sink. Free-standing pantry hutches were painted white on site to avoid touch ups and create a seamless look down to the Persian Pearl granite countertops at either end of the sink. The elegant Waterstone Annapolis Gantry faucet with pre-rinse sprayer is matched by the full complement of soap and bar accessories.

Doorways were raised to seven feet to accommodate Terry's height, cabinets were recessed into walls to provide wider walkways, the hallway door eliminated, and a swinging hallway door salvaged and moved closer to the new gas cooktop. "I've had big ranges in the past and I knew I didn't want that," says Susie, who prefers the storage gained by separating cooktop from ovens.

A White Haus farm sink was placed on the exterior wall where French doors once stood, and crowned with a trio of wooden double hung Jeld-Wen windows to increase natural light. The sink was then flanked with symmetrical painted maple upper cabinets, and a pair of Miele dishwashers below. "I've had dark kitchens, painted kitchens, and kitchens with different colored wood," says Susie, "but there is a timelessness with white that is so essential to the many dark days here in the Northwest."

To accommodate the Porters desire for large seating areas in the kitchen, a Madrone butcher block top table with cherry was fitted seamlessly into the island. "The team was awesome," says Terry. "We're tremendously excited about the way it all turned out. The kitchen is very functional and has a great flow to it."

"One of the reasons the project went so smoothly was because Susie knew exactly what she wanted," says Brian. "What a joy the Porters were to work with. They are such wonderful, grounded people. We wish we could clone them!"



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