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"I wanted a big kitchen," said Danielle at the large bar, complete with six stools for the whole family, that separates the kitchen from the living room. "We do a lot of sitting right here."

"You tend to congregate right here," added Jon. When they have get-togethers with family or friends, it's nice to have a large open space including the kitchen, breakfast nook, and living room.

Their kitchen has several notable features. First, there is an interior window facing the front door and entry way, one of several ideas that Danielle got from magazines. With it, "I can see who is walking in," she said.

The kitchen also features a bronze tray ceiling, which Danielle also saw in a magazine. Irregularly shaped, it raises the ceiling even higher than the nine feet in the rest of the house.

"It's different," Danielle said. "I've never seen it in a house before. It's unique. People definitely comment on it."

"It is unique," agreed Jon. "At night, when it's lit, it's pretty cool."

Finally, the kitchen includes a center island, as well as a longer bar for seating. "You can do a lot of cooking or preparing food on that one," said Danielle of the smaller island in the kitchen, which includes a smaller second sink. "This one (meaning the larger island) is more for entertaining."

Danielle chose alder cabinets for the kitchen, loves the walk-in pantry, and has made frequent use of the double oven (with the kitchen also having a separate stovetop with a large fan hood overhead. "It's so nice to have," said Danielle of the double oven, "especially when we have family gatherings over here. It's definitely worth it."

The couple, married four years, have "used it more than I thought," added Jon.

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Photo by Michael Jacobson

Unique features in their large kitchen include a bronze tray ceiling and a second island for food preparation (including a second sink). The large kitchen also includes a walk-in pantry, large island with six stools for dining/entertaining, and a double oven.



Photo by Michael Jacobson

The Thielens did not want a separate dining room, opting instead to turn this alcove into a breakfast nook, which is open to both the kitchen and living room.

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