



## NW Pro: Updated recipe for a family home

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By **Bridget A. Otto, The Oregonian**



**Enlarge**

**Doug Beghtel, The Oregonian**

Sally Wolcott and her grandson Luke Nees share an afternoon in Wolcott's newly redone kitchen.

**Faith** gallery (4 photos)

**THE OWNERS:** Don and Sally Wolcott

**THE HOUSE:** A traditional two-story built in 1988 off Northwest Cornell Road

**THE ISSUE** A dated kitchen with oak cabinets, which had melamine pullouts that had begun to fail.

**THE BACKGROUND** Although the Wolcotts are empty nesters in their roomy home, their grown daughters and sons-in-law and grandkids live nearby. Family gatherings often fill their empty nest with more than a dozen folks milling about the kitchen.

"This house is home to them," Sally says. "We are not ready to downsize."

The Wolcotts love the home they built and want to keep it current. So Sally conferred with a friend and interior designer on some ideas for the kitchen.

**THE DESIGNER** **Faith Sheridan** and Sally go back to college days in Nebraska, where Don also hails from. Sheridan, who is based in Seattle but works often in Portland, had helped the Wolcotts on some previous work in the house.

**THE PROCESS:** The Wolcotts had considered repairing and painting their cabinetry, but when they tallied up the costs, they realized they'd be paying a good bit for the same cabinets. Then Sheridan suggested they meet with cabinetmaker **Mel Archer**.

Don and Sally just smiled; they'd worked with Archer 20 years earlier, and were pleased to meet up with him again.

**THE CABINETS** Archer suggested making the new upper cabinets taller, reaching to the ceiling with generous crown molding. Sheridan suggested painting and glazing. Sally wanted more drawers and fewer cupboards with deep shelves that hold items hostage in the back.

**GRANITE** Ten years ago, the Wolcotts had put in new granite counters and were hoping the granite could be pulled up and reset on the new cabinets. One large piece on the island came up smoothly, but the pieces around the sink would not cooperate.

A new slab of Desert Gold from Brazil, which Sally found at **Oregon Tile & Marble**, replaced the old and has become Don's favorite aspect of the remodel.

**THE WANTS** The kitchen floor plan had always worked very well, so they decided to leave it alone. Sally said the nice thing about having operated in the kitchen for 20 years was that it had become pretty clear what worked and what didn't. The floor plan did.

The unused pull-out breadboard didn't and was eliminated. Under-cabinet lighting and an angled power strip made by **Task Lighting** went in.

"I never would have thought of that," Sally says about how the power strips eliminated the need for several power receptacles to be punched into her new tile backsplash.

**THE FINISHES** Sally was a little stuck on what the cabinets should look like. She wanted them painted, but worried they wouldn't match the home's painted trim work. Sheridan suggested the glaze, which softened the paint and added definition to the cabinets.

Additionally, the existing refrigerator received a second cabinet-matching apron to give it a more finished look.

**GREAT FIND** Don was pleased to use **DeConstruction Services** from **The ReBuilding Center** to come and take the old cabinets out. He says he paid a fee, but the cabinets were taken out without damage and donated, which gave him a tax write-off.

"And they are great to work with," Sally adds.

## NW PRO

### THE DESIGNER:

Faith Sheridan

**FIRM: Faith Sheridan Design Group**

**YEARS IN BUSINESS: 25**

### DESIGN

**PHILOSOPHY:** "As a design orchestrator, I combine my master's degree in psychology with an extensive design vocabulary and hand-selected artisans and resources to create your perfect space. ... We will work together to create your own masterpiece, not mine."

**NEW TOUCHES** Sheridan suggested adding a soap dispenser at the sink for easy hand washing, and the new self-closing drawers have been a big hit with the woodworker in the family. According to Sally, Don can be spotted silently opening and closing the drawers, his analytical mind at work.

**BOTTOM LINE** The Wolcotts love the update. Don is sure it will be the last project in the house.

Sally laughs. "There's always something."

-- **Bridget A. Otto**

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