

## HOME

NJ HOME MAKEOVER

# Sometimes two kitchens are better than one

By **Kimberly L. Jackson**  
For The Star-Ledger

For a contractor and husband, it might have been the ultimate challenge: Renovate two kitchens at once.

For your mother-in-law, Frank DiPasquale was asked to not only update the main kitchen, but to save the cabinetry so it could be retrofitted into a second kitchen in the basement of the East Hanover home of his in-laws, Mina and Frank Vasilopoulos.

Working for family did not make the job easier, he said.

"It's just as nerve-racking, maybe even more so, because of the level of perfection required," DiPasquale said, comparing the project to those of regular clients. "If you do something wrong, you'll never hear the end of it because you can't get away."

## The renovation

Mina Vasilopoulos cooks in her basement kitchen every day, but felt the upstairs kitchen of their 1978 center-hall colonial needed a makeover "to look pretty." It's the gathering space reserved for holidays and other special occasions.

She and her husband, who own investment real estate, have lived in the 4,000-square-foot house with two kitchens for nearly 25 years, and they have been updating the 4-bedroom, 3 1/2-bathroom house room by room.

For the main kitchen, they splurged on granite for the counters and center island. They selected GE Profile appliances and KraftMaid cabinetry. DiPasquale had previously replaced the kitchen floor, so the new cabinets and other elements were selected to complement it.

"Now I'm finished," Mina Vasilopoulos said. "My house is what I wanted. I love my kitchens."

She selected the main kitchen's features with her daughter Antonia (Frank's wife), and decided to move the old cabinets and appliances to the basement kitchen for an economical update.

The decision had an eco-friendly benefit; old cabinets are usually demolished and discarded when a



The main kitchen called for a splurge on granite counters. (PHOTOS BY ALEX REMNICK/FOR THE STAR-LEDGER)

kitchen is renovated, contributing their bulk to ever-growing landfills. Increasingly, however, homeowners are opting to have old cabinetry disassembled rather than demolished when it's in good shape.

Cabinets can be reused to increase storage space in a garage, basement workshop or other areas, DiPasquale says. Sometimes they can be donated to organizations such as Habitat for Humanity's ReStore locations, which sell higher-quality used building materials to help fund home-building programs. Renovation Angel in Fairfield specializes in recycling luxury fixtures from home renovations. The company will remove, pack and take away donated kitchen cabinetry that passes inspection free of charge.

In the Vasilopoulos home, DiPasquale's crew carefully disassembled the old cabinetry and worked on it in the garage, cutting and rebuilding it to fit the basement kitchen.

"We marked out dimensions and made up a mock kitchen. It's a little more of a challenge to make cabinets

fit in another place, but you can do it," he says.

The Vasilopoulos home had a basement kitchen when they bought it. Such kitchens are known as "summer kitchens" because they kept excess heat and cooking odors out of a house in the days before high-powered exhaust fans.

Recycling cabinetry from the main kitchen added about \$5,000 to a \$55,000



The new cabinets were chosen to complement the floor.



GE Profile appliances and a backsplash add function to form.

## NITTY GRITTY

### About the renovation

**Who did the work:** FDP Builders

**How long it took:** Six weeks, starting in June 2014

**How much it cost:** \$55,000

**How they saved:** The existing floor was in good shape, so they kept it.

**What they'd have done differently:** Nothing  
— Kimberly L. Jackson



At left: A "before" shot of the Vasilopoulos' main kitchen. At right: Their basement kitchen was updated with cabinetry recycled from the main kitchen renovation. (COURTESY OF FRANK DIPASQUALE)

## HOME AND GARDEN

**BASKING RIDGE "Fall Into The Holidays,"** Basking Ridge Garden Club luncheon program with floral designer Carl Lemanski, Oct. 14, 10:30 a.m. \$50. Basking Ridge Country Club, 185 Madisonville Road, baskingridgecc.com, 908-766-5166.

**BRIDGEWATER Birding for Adults,** Oct. 8, 1-3 p.m. \$12. Registration required. Duke Island Park, 191 Old York Road, somersetcountyparks.org, 908-722-1200.

**CHERRY HILL "Gardening With Roses: Easy-Care Climbers, Ramblers and Shrubs,"** Horticultural Society of South Jersey fall flower show with author and gardener Judith McKeon as guest speaker, Oct. 13, 7 p.m. Carman Tilelli Community Center, 820 Mercer St. hssj.org, 856-816-8508.

**DOVER Pathways of History Tour,** self-guided walking tour of Dover historical district, Oct. 10, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Oct. 11, noon-4 p.m. Dover History Museum House, 55 W. Blackwell St. 973-361-3525.

**HAMILTON "Backyard Habitat for Birds (including Butterflies, Dragonflies and More),"** free Rutgers Master Gardeners of Mercer County program with naturalist and author Pat Sutton on native trees, shrubs, vines, wildflowers and

weeds beneficial to birds and other wildlife, Oct. 14, 7 p.m. Registration required. Hamilton Township Public Library, 1 Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. Way. mgofmc.org, 609-989-6830.

**HOLLAND "Reuse and Repurpose" Antique and Home Decor Show,** more than 20 dealers, Oct. 15, 4-8 p.m. Holland Township Volunteer Fire Co., 971 Milford Warren Glen Road. reusenrepurpose.com, 908-246-6277.

**JACKSON "My Healthy Woods,"** free State Forestry Services "Backyard Forestry in 90 Minutes" class, Oct. 8, 7-8:30 p.m. Forest Research Education Center, 495 Don Connor Blvd. njforestry.org/mybackyard, 732-928-2360.

**MONTCLAIR Historic House Tour,** opportunity to visit museum, YWCA and farm, Oct. 11, 1-4 p.m. Crane House Museum, 110 Orange Road. montclairhistorical.org, 973-744-1796.

**Walking Tour of Frog Hollow,** led by local historian Mike Farrelly, Oct. 10, 10:30 a.m. \$5 suggested donation. Registration required. Tierney's Tavern, 136-138 Valley Road. tierneystavern.com, 973-744-1796, mail@montclairhistorical.org.

**MORRIS TWP. 62nd Annual Chrysanthemum Show and Exhibit,** hosted by New Jersey State Chrysanthemum Society with local

gardeners' prize-winning mums, tips on growing and showing chrysanthemums, floral arrangements and potted garden mums for sale, Oct. 10, noon-4:30 p.m.; Oct. 11, 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Frelinghuysen Arboretum, 353 E. Hanover Ave. arboretum-friends.org, 973-326-7600.

**MORRISTOWN "Ghostly Revelations at the Ford Mansion,"** presentation on results of a paranormal study and tour, Oct. 10, 10 a.m. \$20. Washington's Headquarters Museum, Morristown National Historical Park, 30 Washington Place. nps.gov/morr, 973-539-2016.

**PISCATAWAY Piscataway Garden Club,** meeting, Oct. 15, 6-8:45 p.m. Piscataway Senior Center, 700 Buena Vista Ave. piscatawaynj.org, 732-463-1942.

**READINGTON Community Garden Club of Hunterdon County,** meeting with program with Morris County College professor Mark Zukovic, Oct. 8, 11 a.m. Our Lady of Lourdes, 390 County Road 523 in Whitehouse Station. oilwhs.org, 908-534-2890.

**TEANECK "Keep This Toss That,"** lecture on common challenges to getting organized, Oct. 11, 1 p.m. Teaneck Public Library, 840 Teaneck Road. teaneck.org, 201-837-4171.

Submit events at [nj.com/myevent](http://nj.com/myevent) or sign in to [starledger.com/events](http://starledger.com/events).

## SPECIAL TRIAL OFFER!



"I'm using Google to find that program we want to watch. Unfortunately, it has the same name as a rock band, a yoga pose, a cocktail, an urban legend, a blog, a movie, a wrestling move, a racehorse, a night club, a website, the winner of the 1982 Westminster dog show...."

## TRY TV WEEKLY MAGAZINE

America's guide to "the good stuff" on TV.



Highlight your shows and plan your week, it's fast and easy!

SPECIAL OFFER!

13 Issues  
**\$9.75**

TV Weekly magazine provides local TV and cable print listings with comprehensive program grids for each service provider in your area. It delivers an entire week's worth of localized TV listings — with each day's schedule easily viewed at a glance. *It's much quicker and easier to use than a 50 button remote!*

### Weekly features include:

- Unique editorial content plus daily "Best Bet" recommendations
- 5 Questions with your favorite celebrities
- Insider info with Rick Gables
- What's new on DVD and OnDemand
- Find your game in the Sports Zone
- Horoscopes, Sudoku, Crossword & Soaps

Try 13 issues for a trial rate of just \$9.75, that's a 75% savings off the cover price.

online: [www.iwantmytvmagazine.com](http://www.iwantmytvmagazine.com)

phone: 1-866-432-2522

ORDER NOW!