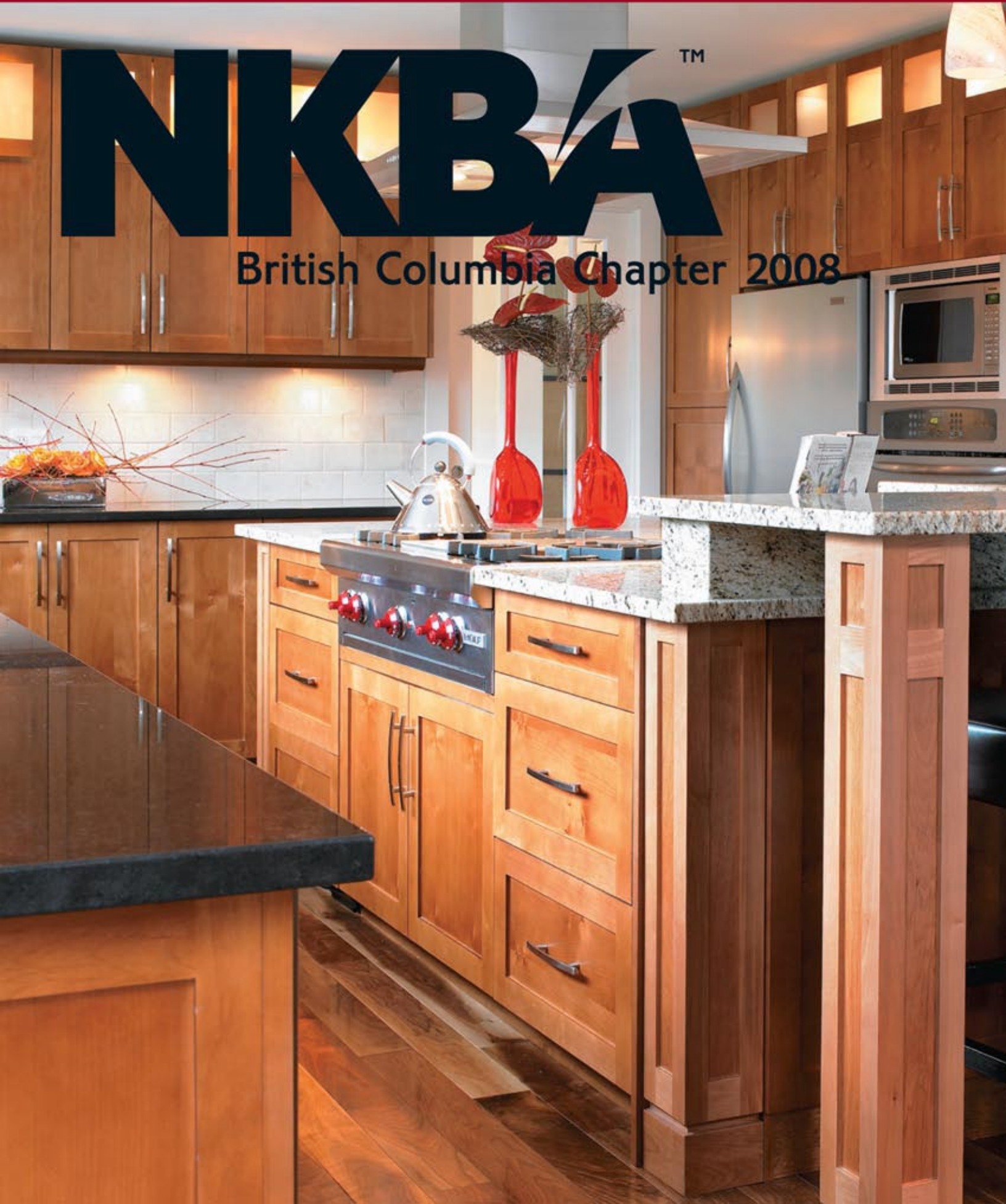


# NKBA™

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# Wood Works in this **MODERN KITCHEN**

Traditional cabinets and trendy appliances balance functionality and style in this Victoria kitchen

By Kathleen Freimond Photos by Jo Ann Richards

The sightline through to the kitchen from the front entrance of this Victoria home gives visitors an immediate, and accurate, impression of the design choices made by the homeowners. A trendy stainless steel extractor fan is the attention grabber and provides a strong architectural feature, while the large windows on the back wall beckon visitors to explore this space that combines classic and contemporary elements.

Warm wood tones present the perfect backdrop for the shiny stainless steel appliances in this kitchen by Meade Design Group's principal designer Ivan Meade, who transformed the space from a style stuck in

the '70s to a celebration of modern form and function.

The 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch-wide walnut plank flooring (by Preverco) runs throughout this section of the home and provides a visual connection between the entrance kitchen, dining room and living room. When his clients opted for wood cabinetry, Meade suggested cherry wood. "It has a similar grain to walnut, and it also picks up a red tone found in some of the planks. It combines to give an analogous effect," he says.

The Shaker-style cabinets were custom made for the space by Vancouver cabinet-maker Paul O'Shaughnessy. Designed for

homeowners who are enthusiastic cooks, storage is maximized by extending the top cabinets to the nine-foot ceiling. However, Meade was conscious that taken to that height, the non-reflective wood surface could make the space appear a little gloomy. His solution was to install puck lights in the cabinets and insert a seven by 12-inch frosted-glass panel at the top of each door. Combined, these squares of light introduce a charming accent into the kitchen while also contributing ambient light to the space. Extra-deep drawers in the island are big enough for storing pots and pans, while a large pantry cupboard alongside the Frigidaire refrigerator



has plenty of space for grocery supplies. Stainless steel hardware (from Cantu Bathrooms and Hardware) adds a modern touch to the simple, clean lines of the cabinet doors and drawers.

Also on the homeowners wish list was plenty of counter space. Meade obliged by placing the Wolfe cooktop in the enlarged six-foot-long island, freeing up space in the rest of the kitchen. The perimeter countertop, a black Nero Absolute granite, provides a linear work surface of just more than 16 feet. Murano Glass pendant lights (from McLarens and Illuminations) are the light source above the two-level island; the lower surface houses



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the cooktop while the other is a breakfast bar – most often used by visitors who congregate in the kitchen while the homeowners are preparing the meal.

Meade selected the creamy-coloured pendants because they contained one of the colours prominent in the island's Gallio Ornamentale granite countertop. "I wanted to pull the granite up to the pendants, and these lights were perfect to do that," he says.

New windows and doors, specially designed focal points and high-end appliances make this new kitchen unrecognizable from the dated space that first confronted Meade when he visited this home. "My clients

wanted me to respect the new Tudor-style architecture of the home, but at the same time they wanted a modern space where they could cook and entertain. The design is grounded by the traditional cabinetry juxtaposed with the appliances and finishes. It makes the space modern, yet classic. I think it is just the right combination."

However, the biggest test is whether his clients believe he found the balance between functionality and visually interesting design – and they do! ■

RESOURCES Design: Ivan Meade, Meade Design Group; Contractor: Horizon Contracting Inc.; Cabinetry: Paul O'Shaughnessy.



Above: A Grohe faucet is an elegant choice; Below (left): A conveniently placed wine fridge in the island is perfect for entertaining; Below (right): The homeowners enjoy cooking so the Wolfe cooktop was a must-have.

