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Custom granite countertops and a circular seating area make this kitchen a warm and inviting space for cooking and entertaining.

Cut and Color

Granite countertops do more than enhance this kitchen: They define it.

BY C.J. KATZ PHOTOGRAPHY BY NAT REA

HOW DO YOU TAKE AN ordinary kitchen and elevate it into something that is not only functional but commands your attention? It's easy, relatively speaking, when you find a custom countertop fabricator and a design team with the creative ingenuity and expertise to make it happen. It's what **Countertops by Superior** does best, as evidenced by Valerie and Doug Lasko's kitchen.

Working with the Laskos' vision, the team at Countertops by Superior designed a space that combined everyday practicality with stunning visual appeal. "One of the great things about working with a custom countertop

fabricator is that there are endless possibilities for design," says Charlene Sousa, showroom manager for Countertops by Superior. "The Laskos wanted the kitchen to be the central gathering point in their home. Our design team felt that a large circular seating area would create the welcoming feeling that they were looking for and allow people to gather, visit and socialize while meals were being prepared."

To ensure they selected stone that would enhance their honey maple cabinets and tile backsplash, the Laskos visited Countertops by Superior's Woonsocket showroom. "We recommend



FROM LEFT: Homeowners Doug and Valerie Lasko with Countertops by Superior's Charlene Sousa and William Yasick.



customers bring a cabinet sample, paint and tile ideas,” says Sousa. “The goal is to develop a whole palette of materials that work well together. The best way to achieve this balance is by viewing all of the materials together.” And, according to Sousa, exotic-looking doesn’t necessarily mean more expensive. “In reality, granite pricing is based more on where stone comes from, its availability and how hard it is to quarry. This means that there are some beautiful, exotic stones available at very reasonable prices,” she says.

With the initial template complete, the Laskos selected a slab that complemented all their finishes and was within their budget. The warm, earthy colors and quartz veining of the Brazilian Crema Bordeaux granite draw the eye around the room and highlight the circular seating area. “Oftentimes we will invite customers to our showroom to lay out their countertop template on their slabs,” says Sousa. “The Laskos were able to choose which parts of the stone would be featured on the different countertops, which allowed them to see exactly what their finished countertops would look like before a single piece was cut.”

Above all the practical reasons to go with granite — its durability, heat and scratch resistance, and easy maintenance — Sousa believes its most impressive quality is the “beauty and uniqueness that only nature can create.” ■

Countertops by Superior, 840 Cumberland Hill Rd., Woonsocket, 765-5533, countertops bysuperior.com.

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