

## LARA MICHELLE BEAUTIFUL INTERIORS



For over 20 years, the design firm of Lara Michelle Beautiful Interiors has gained a reputation on delivering on challenging projects. So the she was recently approached by clients who wanted to complete a renovation with a rather aggressive due date; she didn't hesitate to take on the work personally.

"My firm specializes in large scale residential project design—especially when it involves oversight and management," firm owner Lara Michelle explained. "We proudly handle all the design work as well as hiring and then managing the contractors on a daily basis. I work very hands on to make sure every detail comes out perfectly."

The clients, a young active couple with both a toddler and dog in tow, were expecting their second child. Their ultimate goal? To have the home completed in time to welcome their bundle of joy. "We basically completed a nine-month project in about five months," she said.

The couple wanted a modern layout that had subtle influences of nature. Yet, because of the needs of their growing family, special attention had to be given to ensure that the materials used in the newly renovated home could be tough enough to handle spills and finger prints. "Things needed to be durable, kid & pet friendly and slobber proof," Lara said with a laugh.

The balance of durability and modern design was most evident in the kitchen. Prior to the renovation the large dine-in area had two large refrigerators, wooden cabinets and a substantial prep island used for food prep. Given the family's anticipated heavy use of the room, Lara's immediate challenge was to find a way to keep the changes practical yet stylish.

To achieve this goal, the team installed stainless steel appliances that would be easy to clean. The majority of the cabinetry remained as the team elected to refinish them as opposed to replacing them. But the doors of upper cabinet doors were changed to glass to lighten up the space.

For the cooking area and dining spaces, Lara updated the island with some dark gray paint and new hardware. The backsplash was changed to white glass subway tiles with a stone mosaic print. Finally, she added a rustic wooden table from One Kings Lane and paired it with white chairs to add contrast to the eating area.

With all of the changes, the transformation that caused the most excitement for both the client and designer was that of the floor.

"We love the floors!" Lara exclaimed. "I chose a gorgeous silver Travertine placed in a random sized 'French' pattern. The stone is very durable and given the variation of dark and light colors it contains,

