

Still the Best?

Overcrowding and competing priorities are raising concerns about the future of our schools

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CHEVY CHASE GAITHERSBURG | KENSINGTON | POTOMAC | ROCKVILLE | SILVER SPRING | UPPER NW DC

Warm and Woodsy

A TREE STUMP SOUNDS like an unlikely focal point for an elegant kitchen. But for Anne and Rick Rudman, a chunk of bleached cypress tree lends support—and a flash of rustic glamour—to the island/table in their recently remodeled Potomac home. "We were trying to find something different for the base of that island," says interior designer Don Bostick, who worked on the project. "I found that wood piece in Philadelphia, and it's so organic." The tree trunk supports a wooden tabletop that connects to the kitchen island, which is wrapped in a one-of-a-kind piece of natural quartz.



Throughout the project, Bostick and kitchen designer Hedy Shashaani of Rockville-based Jack Rosen Custom Kitchens looked for ways to combine the practical with the pretty. One of the biggest challenges was incorporating the 4-foot by 4-foot pizza oven. "The only thing Rick cared about was getting a pizza oven in our new kitchen," Anne says. "It's the star." Recessed into the wall, the pizza oven is fronted in aged brass and steel, materials that also show up on the range hood and above the stone fireplace in the adjacent dining room.

Etched marble tiles—the elegant cousins of all those colorful cement tiles out there—form the backsplash. "Don and I went to Architectural Ceramics to look for tile, and they were the thing I loved most," Anne says. "They're delicate and fine." And also as durable as iron or wood, which is a good thing since, Anne says, "We've got four kids and we're pretty hard on our stuff."



