

"The lower height is great for kids," says the husband. Another kid-minded feature is the entertainment system, which includes speakers in the kitchen for the plasma TV on the opposite wall in the family room. This lets the kids watch TV from the kitchen. "It facilitates family time," he adds.

"We were playing with countertop thicknesses, too," Ciccarello says. The island countertop is 2½ inches thick, and others range from 1¾ to 1½ inches. Most of the counters are Fireslate, a manufactured material with the dark look of real slate but less of a tendency to chip or peel.

The walnut cabinets, from Superior Woodcraft, provide a visual counterpoint to the stainless steel appliances—the Thermador range, GE Monogram refrigerator and two single DishDrawer units from Fisher & Paykel. To reinforce the rhythm of alternating materials, Ciccarello specified a steel-front cabinet in the island for a pull-out trash bin. The Franke sinks and Grohe faucets continue the stainless look.

Ceiling heights are part practicality, part necessity. A section of the roof angles into the kitchen near the Best vent hood. Ciccarello extended the kitchen soffit back toward the family room. This not only makes the roof angle less harsh, it's also a handy height for the hood.

Ciccarello enjoys working with clients who have strong creative ideas of their own. "I think you get a better design when there's more than one head in it," he says. ■

**RIGHT:** The distinctive walnut cabinetry treatment found in the kitchen flows over to the entry area, where a radius front unit stands ready to collect keys and mail. The butler's pantry is visible in the room beyond.



style  
icon

## Range Hood

A quality range hood is a key feature of any well-designed kitchen. Range hoods filter, ventilate and circulate air throughout the room and reduce indoor pollution from cooking, grease, heat, steam, smoke and odors. Once limited to bulky, industrial-looking models, today's hoods complement rather than disrupt a kitchen's style. A sleek, artful design in stainless steel, glass or other material can easily become the focal point of your contemporary kitchen. The Italian-crafted Sirius SU14 combines form and function with its curved shape and brushed stainless steel finish. This hood features halogen lights, a dishwasher-safe fat filter, a heat-overload sensor and an unfinished light-oak trim that can be stained to match your kitchen cabinets. About \$980, depending on size. [www.sirius.com](http://www.sirius.com).—Mia Alvar