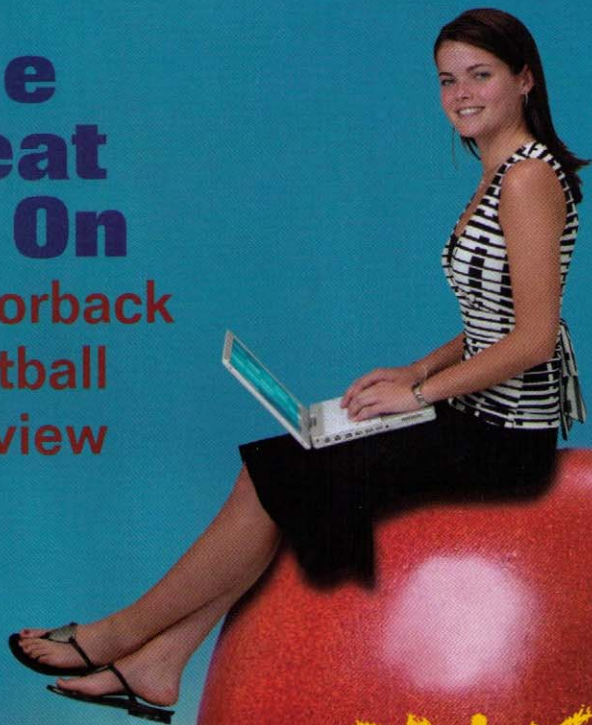


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Above: View of kitchen from stairs
Upper Right: Detail of cabinets and built-ins
Lower Right: Detail of island and granite countertop

Open & Inviting

*The Fayetteville home of
Mike and Andi Stephens*



Ever wish you could design your new home around a dream kitchen? Well, that is exactly what kitchen designer Andi Stephens did.

The first decision Mike and Andi Stephens made when beginning the design process for their new home in Fayetteville was to design it all around the kitchen. You see, both Mike and Andi work at Kitchen Distributors, the noted kitchen and bath design group in Fayetteville. Andi's father, Dave Albert, first opened Kitchen Distributors as "Dave's Wood Shop" in 1970, and the family has run the business ever since. Andi's mother, Carol, came to work in 1980, and in 1994 Mike and Andi joined the team.

Providing the perfect passage into the family's large open living and entertainment spaces is a cozy front porch with a painted fringe rug and coffee cup chandelier (as seen on HGTV). The walls in the entry and living room, as well as the kitchen, are painted in a natural hue (River Pebble, by Sherwin Williams) with white trim. This, coupled with natural-looking floor covering and furnishings, creates an overall clean and crisp feel.

To accommodate the crowds that form during family gatherings and dinner parties, and by using an unrestricted, open concept, the kitchen and living room were planned so that the spaces flow easily from one to the other. The dining room is enclosed but still provides easy access to and from the living room and kitchen. These three rooms form an ideal arrangement for entertaining. Additional volume is added to these spaces with 22-foot ceilings, making this area very impressive yet comfortable during gatherings.

Opening up to the left of the entryway is the kitchen. According to Andi, "A kitchen should have a place for everyone and everything." Topping the list of must haves was the wonderful center island with granite countertop. And being a professional kitchen designer, Andi naturally included top-of-the-line appliances.

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