

KANSAS CITY SPACES

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Effortless
Elegance



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Modern Organic

Empty nesters flock to Brookside.

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Come Together

Toast to brighter, warmer days with a spring-inspired gathering.

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Clean & Fresh

Four laundry rooms that are awash in style and fully loaded with functional features.

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On the Cover

An Unruh Furniture custom table is surrounded by luxe blue velvet chairs in the Brookside home of Mark and Colleen Patterson. Flower arrangement by Fiddly Fig.
Photo by Judy Revenaugh

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Clean & Fresh

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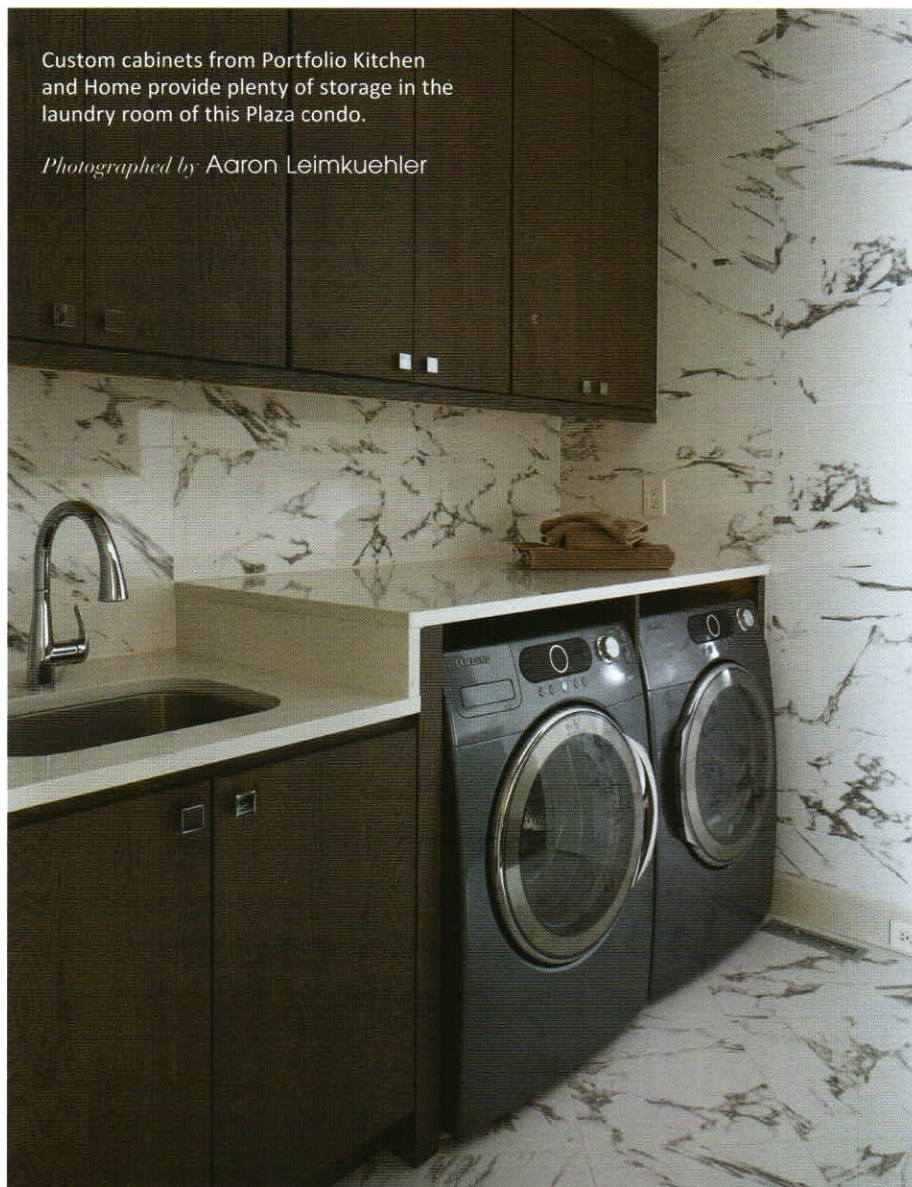
By contributing writer Patricia O'Dell

When it comes time to make a major change, homeowners often think big. Bathrooms! Kitchen! Master bedroom! But the fact is that the inner workings of the house and their efficiencies and aesthetics affect us far more than we sometimes anticipate. This is why some homeowners and designers pay special attention to the laundry room.

No one, except perhaps the most fortunate singleton, can send all of her laundry out to be cleaned. That is why current construction and renovations are bringing civility to the laundry room. Literally elevated from the basement, now the laundry room often lives conveniently on the first or second floor. Materials are consistent with the finishing of the house. Environmental considerations of water and electrical efficiency are weighed. Space for folding, stacking, hand washing and drying are part of the plan. Rather than being a subterranean dingy corner, light-filled laundry rooms often reflect the same aesthetic and sensibility of the homeowner.

Custom cabinets from Portfolio Kitchen and Home provide plenty of storage in the laundry room of this Plaza condo.

Photographed by Aaron Leimkuehler



A Modern Air

For two busy executives, the best thing in life is ease. When the pair renovated their Country Club Plaza condo, they were focused on how they wanted to live. Of course they loved the view, but they also wanted their home to help make their lives easier. Geri Higgins, owner of Portfolio Kitchen and Home, worked diligently to make that happen.

"They both love to entertain frequently," says Higgins. While they often cook, they do sometimes use caterers. Besides the beautifully functional kitchen that Higgins designed, she also added a catering kitchen and laundry room where a small bath used to be.

"It's nice to have this little extra space," says Higgins. "Sometimes she even wraps presents in here."

The natural light and custom design make any task in this room a delight. Higgins tiled the walls and chose a Caesarstone counter that would work like a draft horse while looking like a show pony. The dark rich stain of the cabinets and the unique square handles make this service area as lovely as the rest of the home.



Drawers, benches and closets by Built to Fit add function and organization to this laundry room. Baskets and space for a calendar keep things in order. Shades of gray on the walls and floors create a clean slate.

Photographed by Judy Revenaugh



Cubby Fans

Jill Tran and Carmen Thomas were integral partners, not only in the decoration of their clients' Mission Hills home but also in the selection and renovation.

"We assisted the couple in their house search and helped them see the potential each home had in meeting their family's needs," says Tran.

Once they had settled on the best fit, Tran + Thomas reworked the floor plan and then laid out an overall plan which included a very functional mudroom/laundry room that was still light, bright and pretty. The original laundry room was large with a wrap-around counter and corner shelves, but the family of six needed more storage and functionality. The clients were originally considering covering the window to make that happen.

"We didn't want them to lose the natural light," says Tran. "It filters from the mudroom into the kitchen so we maximized storage while preserving the window."

This room is off of the kitchen and without a door, so the designers needed to make sure it could stay neat, tidy and well organized. Tran + Thomas included a closet for coats, benches for putting on shoes and a wall for their calendar/dry erase board for scheduling the family's activities. The result is a beautiful, functional space that met the homeowners' distinct needs. ♦