

# UPDATING A 1960s HOUSE NEAR FM 1960



SILESTONE IS THE COUNTERTOP OF CHOICE FOR KITCHEN AND BATHS IN THIS SWELL CALIFORNIA-STYLE HOUSE OVERLOOKING THE CHAMPIONS GOLF CLUB COURSE

BY JEAN HENRY  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY RAYMOND ALDERETE

*LEFT: New Silestone countertops in Kona Beige complement a view of the Champions Golf Club course. "My husband likes to say this is a natural painting," says the homeowner.*

The house with soaring ceilings, abundant skylights and magnificent vistas of the Champions Golf Club course was pure '60s suburban swank when it was built in 1968. But the years were not kind to it. A previous owner had painted the herringbone-brick floors black. The walls were dark forest green. The sliding glass windows needed work.



*BELOW: The kitchen is open to the breakfast room and can be seen from the living room. The red hibiscus painting is by Houston artist Selma D. Cooper.*

*BELOW: Silestone backsplashes unify the look of the kitchen. A busy backsplash with accents "would've chopped up this room," says the homeowner.*





ABOVE AND BELOW: *The couple chose Kalahari Silestone, a soothing neutral tone, for the countertops in his and her bathrooms.*



IN THE SPOTLIGHT



*Kona Beige Silestone in the laundry room is a real workhorse, resisting scratches and stains.*

*Rosa Grey Silestone accents the downstairs powder room.*

“The house was originally built by a man from California, and it was very forward when built,” says the current homeowner, a retired teacher who bought the house with her husband. The main living quarters, including separate his and her bathrooms, are all downstairs. There’s plenty of gallery space for the couple’s growing collection of Inuit art from Canada. Spacious bedrooms upstairs comfortably accommodate the couple’s grown children when they come to visit.

But the kitchen ceiling was too low and had a “Star Wars light fixture,” the homeowner says. They gutted everything in the kitchen. The baths needed updating with new cabinets and countertops, too. “When we decided to tackle this remodeling project, we didn’t consider anything else but Silestone for our countertops,” she says. “I like it because it’s practically no maintenance. I don’t want a house I have to fuss over. I don’t want to be a slave to my home.”

The couple had updated their previous house in Champions Park with Silestone countertops in 2001. “We sold that house in 11 days,” the homeowner says, “and I firmly believe the Silestone helped it sell.”

**WHY SILESTONE?**

Made of natural quartz, Silestone is one of the hardest natural materials available. Only three other natural minerals — diamond, sapphire and topaz — are harder than quartz. Quartz is seven on a Mohns Hardness Scale, while diamond is a 10. Silestone resists stains, scratching and scorching, and it never needs sealing, waxing or polishing.

“You can do just about anything on it,” says Dennis Brown of R&D Marble Inc., who installed the countertops in the Champions kitchen. Brown has been in the construction business for 23 years and has been a certified Silestone installer for six years. “I have it in my house. I like to make chicken and dumplings and I cut the dumplings right on the Silestone. “It’s extremely durable and withstands all the day- to-day kitchen activities.”

Silestone performs well, and it also looks and feels good. Natural quartz gives Silestone depth, clarity, radiance and a cool, solid feel unique to natural stone.

**SILESTONE EVERYWHERE**

For the Champions kitchen, the homeowner chose Silestone’s best selling color, Kona Beige. “I wanted something neutral that wouldn’t look dated in 10 years,” she says. Neutral-toned Silestone in Kalahari and Rosa Grey went into her bathrooms.

She also chose Kona Beige Silestone backsplashes in her kitchen for a more uniform look. “I would recommend doing a backsplash in Silestone,” she says.

“I think it’s less distracting. A busy backsplash with accents would’ve chopped up this room.”

The homeowner chose a decorative edge for her Silestone, a double-ogee bullnose edge. “I figured this was a big room,” she says. “It needed a more dramatic edge.”

The Champions kitchen posed a challenge in mounting the slab of Silestone behind the cooktop and vent hood. “Special holes had to be cut into the Silestone and we had to mount the vent hood to the Silestone,” says Brown. Installation of all the countertops and backsplashes took about two days, he adds.

One element that remained was the kitchen’s large picture window. Kona Beige Silestone complements the view rather than stealing the scene.

**SILESTONE COLORS AND TEXTURES**

Silestone now comes in almost 60 colors. Last year, the company debuted the new Mountain Series Colors — the new and exclusive five-color mix process that results in more depth, richer shades, stylish tones and a superior distribution of color. These colors are a big hit with designers, architects and homeowners across the nation.

This year, Silestone’s new Zen Series offers five peaceful colors that transcend the ordinary countertop color spectrum with a subtle plum color, two warm browns, a deep gray and several fresh shades of white.

The new Zen Series contains small aggregates creating a solid, modern surface. The colors flow nicely with a minimalist design and are very soft on the eyes. They’re designed to enlighten a living space. Zen colors include Gedatsu, Haiku, Koan, Satori and Unsui.



**THE CLEANER, SAFER MATERIAL**

All Silestone countertops now have the antimicrobial protection of Microban, which is integrated into the product during the manufacturing process, making the entire product resistant to bacteria, mold and fungi that can cause stain and odors.

The Silestone brand has recently been awarded Greenguard Indoor Air Quality Certification from the Greenguard Environmental Institute. This certification means that Silestone Quartz emits low-to-no-emissions (off gassing) of toxic chemicals into the indoor environment. Incorporating products such as Silestone Quartz surfacing can help reduce the level of harmful indoor air pollutants in your home. The National Sanitation Foundation’s NSF51 certification means Silestone is certified as a safe material for use in areas where food preparation could take place.

“Silestone is now the cleaner, safer countertop for your home,” says Jeff Bednarz, general manager of Stone Systems of Houston, the regional fabrication facility of Houston.

“Silestone’s innovations continue to make it the leading quartz countertop in the world,” Bednarz adds. “Our market share continues to grow, and we are now offering a 15-year warranty against manufacturing defects on Silestone. This warranty period was recently increased by another five years because we know Silestone is a very durable, long-lasting countertop and we’ve seen very few issues over our 10-year presence here in the U.S.”

This month’s In the Spotlight is sponsored by Silestone of Houston, 1.866.COUNTERTOP or [www.silestoneusa.com](http://www.silestoneusa.com). Available through its network of local certified Silestone installers

For more information on R&D Marble Inc., a Certified Silestone Installer, please call 936.856.6342 or visit [www.rdmarble.com](http://www.rdmarble.com).