



Toby Cornell's design elements make use of the space this great room has to offer.

PHOTO BY THOMAS E. CORDOVA

"I got exactly what I wanted for the whole house, and I love the kitchen," said Mary Perera. "I don't believe in the idea that bigger is better. I wanted a modern home with a Craftsman feel. What we got is small, comfortable space throughout the house and space that could be used.

"Anyone who knows Craftsman design knows that it is all about being useful," she added. "We wanted to be true to the design as well so we picked polished nickel for the sink, marble instead of granite (for countertops), and if it gets scratches on it then it at least looks like it's being used. We wanted easy and comfortable design with modern convenience.

"I didn't want industrial kitchen appliances. Everything is spaced properly. I love the subway handmade tiles in the kitchen, the cherry cabinets with rain glass and the incorporation of pears throughout, seen in backsplashes for instance, since Hank's family is from the area in Portugal known for its pears."

And planning even went to the dogs, literally. Where some under-the-counter cabinets might have been, Wheeler designed a comfortable space for bedding that accommodates the family's two dogs. The design is simple but highly functional.

#### THE FAMILY SPACE

Cornell Custom Homes, 14730 Central Ave., Suite B, Chino; [www.cornellcustomhomes.com](http://www.cornellcustomhomes.com), 909-614-1672

Dens, family rooms, great rooms. Whatever you call them, they've become integral to homes and a common meeting place for everyone.

Toby Cornell prefers the latter term, and from the looks of those his company produces, just about everything is great about a great room.

"These rooms are designed with one thing in mind — to spend time, usually a lot of time, in them, so they have to be functional in their design from the get-go," said Cornell, a third-generation builder whose company specializes in luxurious custom homes.



# Grand

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