

## Exploring the multifunctional kitchen

April 26, 2012 by Molly A. Campbell



The Command Central Design Salon speakers (from left to right): Jan Gleysteen, Nancy Goldstein, Alison Weidner, and Greg Bilowz

One of our speakers from last night's Design Salon at SieMatic Boston, Greg Bilowz (landscape architect, Bilowz Associates), provided the audience with a quote from chef Jamie Oliver that I cannot resist repeating: "The easiest way to improve the quality of your life is a good meal." And what better way to create such a meal than in a perfectly designed kitchen with fresh herbs from your own garden? That's just what was explored at last night's event: "Command Central: The multifunctional heart of the home."

Kicking off the night was the impeccable Jan Gleysteen of Jan Gleysteen Architects, who not only gave us the long view of how kitchens have evolved throughout the century, but also provided some very interesting technical keys to creating an ergonomic and seamless kitchen. Hint: there's a triangle involved. It's time to face the fact that computers have a permanent residence in today's kitchen and Jan provided photos from recent projects to prove it.



SieMatic's showroom at 1 Charles Street South in Boston is the ultimate resource for sprucing up a kitchen (right) and jaw-droppingly beautiful, the SieMatic S1 kitchen shows how lifestyle dictates design (left).

Our gracious hostess, Alison Weidner of SieMatic Boston followed up Jan with a stunning exploration of the range of designs available from her showroom. Alison got to the heart of the matter: lifestyle dictates design. Case in point: the S1 kitchen from SieMatic, the photo of which depicted a kitchen in a home perched on a mountain in what looked like the Alps. That, my friends, is a lifestyle.

Following Alison's presentation was Bilowz. Greg is such an inspiring speaker you just want to write down every recommendation he makes. It's clear his knowledge of plants and design is extensive and dovetails beautifully in his projects. For Greg, the kitchen's "command center" is easily extended into outdoor living spaces through his love of sitting walls in all shapes and sizes. We were all lucky to leave the event with a plant of our own to enjoy, courtesy of Bilowz Associates.



After mingling, the audience listens to the four speakers and their advice for designing a kitchen in today's world (right) and to top off a wonderful night, *Design New England* gift bags provided everyone with a little something special (left).

Capping off a lovely evening was Nancy Goldstein of [Light Positive](#), whose expertise began in theatre lighting and, luckily for the residents of Massachusetts and beyond, is now focused on indoor and outdoor lighting for the home. Layers are the key to success in Nancy's practice: anyone in attendance last night now knows what it means to say "general, task, eye candy."

Be sure to join us for our next Design Salon, "High Style, Low Impact" at Circle Furniture on Wednesday May 2. Go here to sign up:

<http://designnewengland.eventbrite.com/>