

July 2025

# ARROYO

*Fine living in the greater Pasadena area*

## A 'Sacred Space'

**COUPLE PAIRS CONSERVATION  
AND CREATIVITY**

**PRESERVING  
AND PERFECTING  
FAMILY-OWNED NOTT &  
ASSOCIATES BUILDS AND  
RESTORES PASADENA HOMES**

**+ A MATCH  
MADE IN O'SIDE**

*Summer Living Issue*



# A Legacy of Excellence

Cynthia Bennett and Associates: Celebrates 44 years of Exceptional Home Remodeling

By Alison Stanton

For over four decades, Cynthia Bennett & Associates has been a trusted name in residential design and remodeling throughout the San Gabriel Valley.

Known for its timeless style and attention to detail, the firm has transformed more than 1,000 homes in Pasadena, San Marino, La Canada, South Pasadena and Altadena.

Founded in 1981 by Cynthia Bennett – one of the first female general contractors in the industry – the firm has always pushed boundaries while honoring classic design.

In 2007, Bennett's daughter, Carolien Fehmers, also a licensed general contractor, joined the business. Fehmers assumed leadership in 2020 following her mother's retirement, continuing the family legacy with passion and vision.

As a full-service design-build firm, Cynthia Bennett & Associates (CBA) handles everything from architectural planning and permits to construction and interior design, including window treatments and furnishings.

Clients appreciate the seamless experience of working with a single firm from concept to completion.

"We don't get calls for repairs after we finish a project," Fehmers said.

"What we do get are calls 20 years later from clients who still love their kitchen or bathroom but are ready for an update. That's a testament to the longevity of our designs."



**POWDER ROOM UNDER THE STAIRS**



**CAROLIEN FEHMERS**

CBA is known for open-concept living spaces that embody laid-back California living – often starting with a kitchen great room that opens to the outdoors.

"One of our recent projects was a 100-year-old Victorian home in South Pasadena. It had a choppy layout with many small

**KITCHEN BEFORE**



**KITCHEN AFTER**



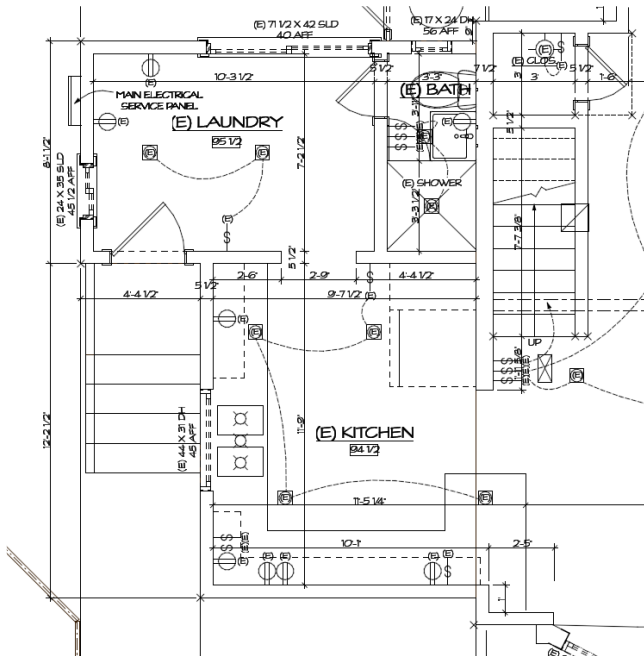
rooms," Fehmers explained.

"We reimagined the space by opening up and enlarging the kitchen with an addition, relocating the laundry upstairs, and adding a powder room under the

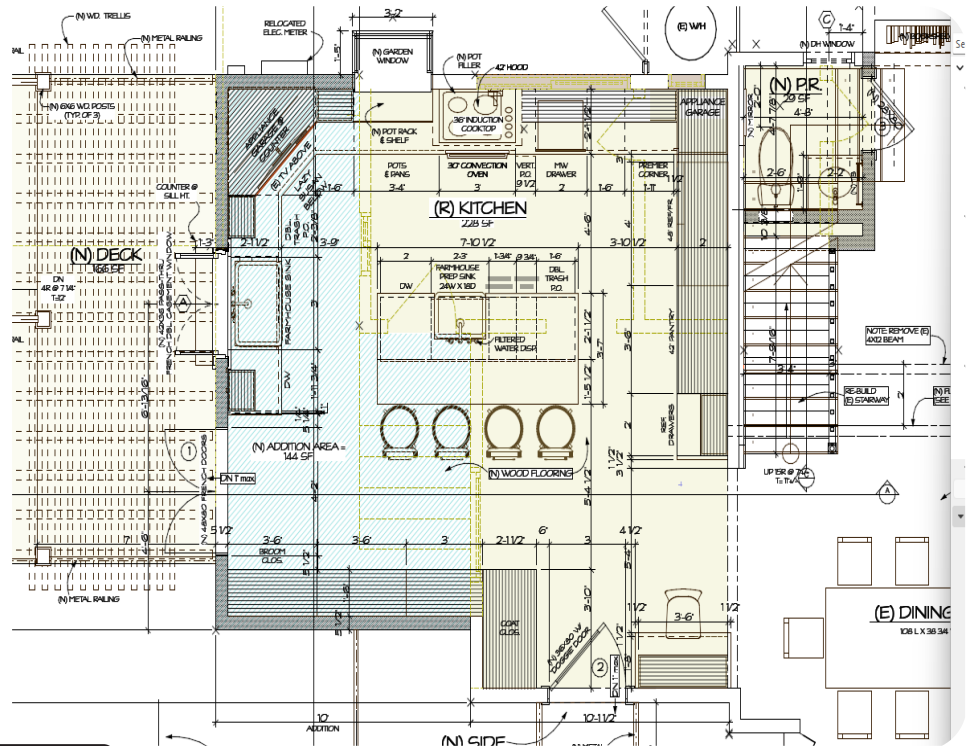
stairs. The result is a light, functional kitchen where the family can gather, complete with French doors that lead out to a new backyard deck."



## FLOOR PLAN BEFORE



## FLOOR PLAN AFTER



## RETRO KITCHEN



Another recent remodel involved blending vintage charm with modern function.

A client with a century-old home wanted to update the kitchen appliances while keeping her cherished antique range and orig-

inal 1900's cabinet glass.

CBA used Big Chill retro-style appliances that complemented the old range beautifully and recreated custom cabinetry to match the existing leaded glass – an artful marriage of old and new.

Beyond remodels, Cynthia Bennett & Associates has been deeply engaged in helping local families recover after the devastating Altadena fire.

“One of our clients had just completed a remodel when the fire destroyed their home. We’re now helping them start over,” Fehmers said.

“Another longtime client lost the home we remodeled for them in 2015; we’ve already submitted new plans to the county to begin rebuilding.”

As Fehmers explained, although new construction isn’t typically CBA’s focus, they are committed to doing whatever it takes to help their clients return home.

“We’ve responded to numerous calls and met with potential clients to explore options for rebuilding. The county advised that the fastest path forward would be to rebuild ‘like for like,’ and we’ve explained that option to homeowners,” she notes.

“While some clients saw this as an opportunity to make changes after years in their homes, many simply wanted to move quickly and chose to rebuild as it was. We

truly wish that all the people who lost their homes get to rebuild as soon as possible, so they get closure to this horrible ordeal.”

In every project, the firm prioritizes planning and precision. Construction doesn’t begin until every detail – from tile and cabinetry to hardware, paint colors, lighting and countertops – is selected and incorporated into the plans.

This proactive approach prevents unexpected change orders and keeps projects on budget, Fehmers notes.

CBA also offers sustainable and energy-efficient design solutions for eco-conscious clients.

Blending the best of timeless architecture with modern innovation, Cynthia Bennett & Associates has become synonymous with quality, trust and transformation.

“Every project is a chance to improve someone’s life,” Fehmers said.

“It’s incredibly rewarding to take something dated or dysfunctional and create a space that’s beautiful, livable, and lasting.”

For more information go to [www.cynthiabennett.com](http://www.cynthiabennett.com).