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Bonita Bay home catches up, goes Tuscan to contemporary

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A lot can change in twenty years. Around the new millennium, two emerging trends completely transformed interior design: the granite countertop and the open floor plan. At the time, the way homeowners used their kitchen was changing—no longer purely functional, it became the new social hub of the home. And slowly but surely, it began to merge with the living room to create the big, open living space homebuyers know and love today.

Until recently, the Tuscan aesthetic dominated new home construction and drove remodelers to upgrade their client's homes. But just as the style reached peak ubiquity, a new generation of homebuyers entered the market. These buyers crave a light palate with pops of bright color; clean, modern lines; and no-fuss features. This new sleek look is easy to maintain and very different from the heavy-handed Tuscan style. The trademark palette of burnt red, olive green, golden brown, and other heavy, earthy tones was the cornerstone of the Tuscan aesthetic, and often paired with dark woodwork to complete the old-world trend.

Generally, the Tuscan design that was cherished years ago was based on the idea that more is better. Designers utilized an abundance of fabrics, colors, textures, and accessories. But today, that look is seen as busy and cluttered. The old-world charm that was popular in the early 2000s is out, and fresh, contemporary design is in. Homebuyers are opting for a simple, airy design over warm tones, rustic iron, and wine-inspired vignettes.

Granite helped introduce homeowners to stone in the kitchen, and we haven't looked back. But now there are more options than ever, including engineered quartz, dolomite and other stone surfaces that are more popular and suited to today's minimalist aesthetic. The Tuscan aesthetic was exemplified by elaborate custom cabinets, immaculate granite countertops and pebbled travertine flooring. These elements were rounded off with a bit of old-world luxury, and ornate furniture to create a Tuscan-inspired ambience that was all American. Today, there is a mass "de-tuscanization" taking place in America, especially on the coasts and

in places like Florida, where contemporary coastal design reigns supreme.

The transitional-inspired makeover of this lovely home transforms a tired, less than functional space into a contemporary dream home. This remodel is a beautiful example of the artistry and craftsmanship of the Green Mountain Builders' artisans.

Built in 2000, this "Birdie" model in Bonita Bay, Bonita Springs, Florida featured many of the Tuscan-style finishes and architectural features commonly found in homes built during the first decade of the 21st century. Generally, all colors needed to be lightened and brightened, all light fixtures, including chandeliers replaced, all features were updated, arches were transformed into right angles and everything was squared off.

Walls were removed and the kitchen space was expanded, which opened up this fabulous space, allowing natural light to stream through. The open plan provides a more efficient and functional kitchen space. The dark brown granite countertops were replaced with a stunning dolomite top, and the dark wood cabinets were lightened up with a two-tone design with white perimeter cabinets, and a light gray backsplash replacing the original, multi-colored brown mosaic installation. The flooring throughout is now an elegant gray and white tile design, much cleaner and lighter than the original beige flooring. The beige walls have been painted white, plant shelves were placed above the architectural arched nooks and bookshelves were removed creating a clean linear presentation.

Everything dark was removed, including the dark heavy furniture, the designer then replaced with lighter, more contemporary designs. The grass cloth wallpaper was removed, as was the glass block in the master bathroom that was transformed into a spa-like ambience with a magnificent shower and sleek contemporary cabinetry and plenty of storage.

The furniture that's paired with a Tuscan-style home can appear as heavy as what you're seeing on the walls or the woodwork or the flooring. Heavy, earth-toned furniture can make rooms appear darker and smaller than they really are. Any Tuscan-style interior can be brightened and updated—from the window treatments with clean lines and subtle textures, to the declutter of the space. These aesthetic

choices can bring a worn-out dated space into the height of style by today's standards. Many Tuscan-style homes within Bonita Bay and throughout Southwest Florida that have now aged over twenty years are going through the remodeling and makeover process updating both indoor and outdoor spaces. The remodels typically open up interior spaces, utilize new and updated kitchens, living and dining spaces, and include bedrooms, bathrooms and various other interior upgrades and improvements.

A Southwest Florida custom home building and remodeling company, Green Mountain Builders has a long and respected history of creating quality in Naples, Bonita Springs, Estero and Fort Myers for over three decades. All Green Mountain Builders' projects, whether new construction or a luxurious remodel like this Bonita Bay home, are built with the utmost attention to detail behind the walls and in every space within the walls. What homeowners don't see is as important as what they see every day. Every home built or remodeled by Green Mountain Builders offers superb value, along with top-rated features and finishes.

Green Mountain Builders takes great pride in their work and understands that the foundation of every success comes from helping their clients realize their vision. The mission is to collaborate with clients to develop a unique, high-quality home that exceeds their expectations and surpasses industry standards. Their goal is to provide exceptional service and lasting value while enhancing customer experience.

Their client-focus and quality-oriented approach ensures each homeowner feels comfortable, cared for and that their needs and expectations throughout the process are met. We take a consultative role to help customers realize the best version of their homes' potential, while paying keen attention to their desires and needs. We take great pride in delivering professional, timely and flawless services at an exceptional value.

Green Mountain Builders' remodeling division specializes in whole-home makeovers, bathroom and kitchen remodeling, outdoor living renovations and room additions. Remodeling skill and experience is key to recreating a home to fit the current needs of a homeowner's evolved lifestyle.

For more information call 239-313-5355.