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Official Publication

Woman's Day
Innovation Series
Volume XIII, Number 1
U.S. \$4.99
CANADA \$5.50
Display until
April 15, 2003



before & after

BY JEANNIE MATTEUCCI

The charm of a 1925 Orlando, Florida, bungalow caught the eye of a homeowner who was looking for a house with character. But to make the house really work, a major renovation of the kitchen was a must. "The kitchen was dated by its original cabinets," recalls Stephen Gidus, who with his brother, Paul, owns PSG Construction in nearby Winter Park. Working with Jim Ross, of Ross Design Group in Orlando, they collaborated to improve the function of the room while preserving some of the appealing architectural details of the space.

By removing one wall, they were able to open the kitchen to a new breakfast nook and family room addition. Black-granite countertops, a farmhouse sink and a stainless steel range are a few of the important changes. Other upgrades—improved lighting and reglazed windows—help make the room attractive and efficient.

Preserving architectural integrity while improving function was the goal of this remodel



PLASTER

One of the most appealing decorative features in the newly renovated kitchen is the hand-scored plaster that adds texture to plain walls and achieves a faux-tile finish. This technique gives the walls an old-world feel.

LIGHTING

Hanging pendants allow the owners to enjoy the kitchen during the evening hours and provide light for preparing dinner or grabbing a quick midnight snack.

WINDOWS

A pair of original windows were completely rehabbed and reused. The refurbished windows add plenty of natural light and offer ventilation on warm days. Keeping the wooden windows was one of the ways the owners maintained the authentic architectural flavor of the kitchen.



ABOVE LEFT: The old kitchen was dated, not very functional and was boxed in by full-height walls.

RIGHT: A better layout, new appliances and attention to detail gave this kitchen a look that respects the past.

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LEFT: By combining three rooms, the homeowners now have a larger kitchen that accommodates the whole family. BELOW: The old kitchen was small and cramped, with scattered, small work areas.

SALVAGED BEAMS

Barn beams salvaged from a farm in upstate New York were used on the ceiling and the doorway surrounds to give the kitchen an inviting feel. The rustic beams complement the rough plaster finish that decorates the ceiling.

CENTER ISLAND

Giving the homeowners extra prep space and much-needed storage, the new island features a sink, dishwasher, granite countertop, cabinets and drawers.

APPLIANCES

A family this size needs a host of appliances. To accommodate their needs, the kitchen is now equipped with two Miele dishwashers, a Dacor warming drawer and double ovens, a 48-inch Thermador gas cooktop, a 36-inch Sub-Zero refrigerator and a 36-inch freezer.

While a Winter Park family of seven awaited the arrival of another child, they decided their kitchen also needed to expand. Working with designer Joan DesCombes, CKD, of Architectural Artworks of Winter Park and PSG Construction, the family created a space that allows them to prepare meals and socialize together. “We were able to combine the kitchen with a breakfast room and sunroom to create one large space that better suits their needs,” says Paul Gidus.

A warming drawer and an undercounter refrigerator below



the kids’ crafts station come in handy in the busy household. “The room works to bring the family members together and it gives them a well-organized space for all the appliances they need,” notes Stephen Gidus.

This kitchen needed storage and work space.

SINK

The new sink in this remodeled kitchen is an unusual octagon shape that mirrors some of the owners' favorite display plates. While regular double sinks feature a big rectangle with two boxy squares inside, this aesthetically pleasing sink is one long rectangle with clipped corners.

LIGHTING

Undercabinet lighting was added to provide task lighting and to accentuate some of the owners' decorative dishes that are displayed around the kitchen.

REFRIGERATOR

Well-conceived details form the basis for why this kitchen remodel works so brilliantly. For example, the new refrigerator has custom panel doors that match the surrounding cabinetry to create a streamlined look.

Lifestyle changes made the owners of a two-story, 1970s Winter Park home decide to improve and modernize their existing kitchen. "The couple are empty nesters, with kids in college," explains Stephen Gidus. "All the appliances in the old kitchen were from the 1970s and its function and look was outdated." The kitchen was gutted, and a bulky header over the bay window was eliminated. By concealing ductwork in trusses, the ceilings could be raised from 7 feet to 8. This, combined with

a light-colored palette, gives the kitchen an open feeling.

Lacquered cream cabinets, greenish brown granite countertops, stainless steel appliances and a new terra-cotta-colored ceramic tile floor are some of the other design details of the new kitchen. Most of the appliances stayed in their original locations, but the sink was moved to line up with a window to more pleasingly frame the view of the backyard. "Now the family has a more functional kitchen, a cleaner look and a better view," says Gidus.



ABOVE: Appliances and finishes from the 1970s dated the old kitchen. RIGHT: Improving the layout and raising the ceiling height makes the remodel more functional and appealing.



A raised **ceiling**, new **finishes** and better **layout** make the room inviting.

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ABOVE: The old kitchen suffered from a restricted traffic flow and a dearth of storage space. RIGHT: Installing modern appliances, revamping the room layout and raising the ceiling to accommodate tall banks of cabinetry make the kitchen more functional.

ARCHED OPENING

One of the challenges of this project was finding a way to make the renovated kitchen blend seamlessly with the rest of the house. Creating a new arched access door between the kitchen and dining room that mirrors a similar opening between the dining area and living room was one of the solutions to the problem.

CEILING

By opening up the 9-foot ceiling to capture space that was previously in the attic, the builders were able to create an open-beam effect and add a ceiling fan and indirect lighting. The new ceiling now stands 16 feet at its highest point, creating a feeling of spaciousness in the room.

PANTRY

A small cubbyhole that had been completely closed off was opened up to create a pantry. The custom-designed space boasts shelves at different heights for specific items like canned goods and boxes of cereals.



Having guests over for a gourmet meal is one of the joys of this Winter Park couple who love to entertain at home. But with a cramped kitchen that was cut off from other rooms, dinner parties became a chore. "The old kitchen didn't have a lot of storage space," recalls Stephen Gidus. Working with PSG Construction and designer Sandra Linn, CKD, CBD, of Sandra Linn Designs in Walworth, New York, the owners decided to add a new access

room, to improve traffic flow and offer better accessibility to rest of the house.

A raised ceiling adds volume to the room, and a new wall of cabinets improves storage. The renovated kitchen now features top-of-the-line appliances, including a stainless steel dishwasher, a Sub-Zero refrigerator, double wall ovens and a 30-inch cooktop. Painted white-birch cabinets and salt-and-pepper granite countertops provide a contrast to the stainless steel appliances. Extensive lighting illuminates task areas for preparing meals. ■

From lackluster room to light-filled space.