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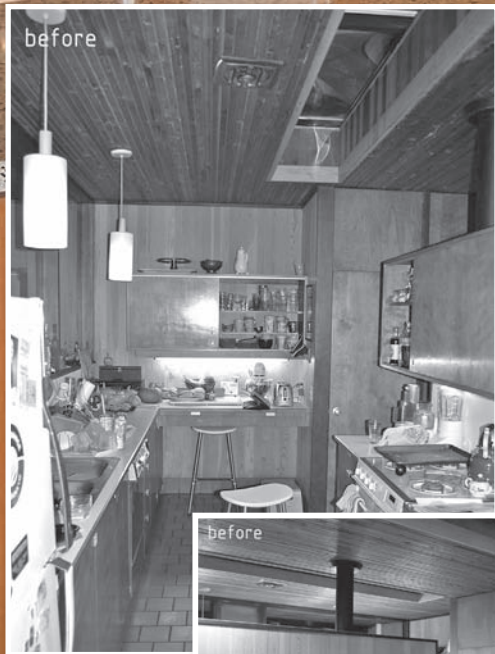
Mid-Century Kitchen for the Twenty-First Century

How to Start and Complete a
Successful Remodeling Project



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Mid-Century Kitchen for the Twenty-First Century

By Richard Shugar

The Woodland Kitchen started as a very isolated and outdated space in a classic 1959 Mid-Century Modern home. This galley-style kitchen was very confined, with little connection to the adjacent dining and living spaces. The challenge in this project was to create a clean, timeless look that respected the authentic vintage character of the home.

The homeowners wanted to open the kitchen to the dining and living areas to allow conversation and light to flow more freely through the spaces.

To make this happen, a partition wall between the kitchen and dining room was removed, and a raised island was added to activate this edge.

Opening up the wall not only keeps cooks from being isolated, but it also floods the kitchen with natural light. "Opening things up means more connection to the rest of the house as we cook, which we love to do. This is handy as our daughter plays or does homework in the main living-dining area, and it changes the dynamic as we have friends over for dinner," said Dev.

The island connects the cooking area with the dining area, and the raised bar edge shields the views of the countertops from the dining room. New task lighting also makes the work spaces brighter and more efficient.

New cabinets were the core component of this

Continued on page 22



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MATERIAL SOURCES:

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Continued from page 11

remodel, to reduce clutter and update the esthetic of the kitchen. This casework was constructed of rift-sawn white oak with integrated custom-designed black walnut pulls. The East Indian owners enjoy preparing ethnic foods from their homeland, and deep countertops make access to fresh ingredients possible while still leaving enough room to work.

"We continue to love the style that people see first as they walk in our house. But just as important is that everything is really functional. With touches like the appliance garage, we are able to have a full contemporary kitchen in the same footprint as our old galley kitchen without being cramped and cluttered," explains Dev.

A removable end-grain bamboo cutting board was integrated into the countertop design near the stove, and is at a lower height for more leverage while chopping.

To keep the kitchen uncluttered, an appliance garage with aluminum tambour doors was built into a nook at the end of the kitchen.

On the dining-room side of the remodel, visual "noise" is further reduced through integration of a wine cooler, an electronics charging station, and mail center. The new hood over the range is a modern style that complements the architecture of the home.

"I have been amazed at how much calmer I've been cooking in this kitchen! I love being able to see the sunsets while at the stove," says Sujata.

For a retro-modern feel, architectural resin panels with an embedded layer of grass are used as the backsplash in several backlit cabinet doors and as cabinet doors. The owners and designers were committed to using as many sustainable products as possible in the remodel. The countertops are made from quartz, a durable and low-maintenance product, and the island countertop is made from recycled glass and concrete and is a certified cradle-to-cradle material. The flooring is renewable cork, which is not only sustainable, but comfortable underfoot and easy to maintain. ■

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