

Pittsburgh
Magazine

HOME

KITCHEN *transformations*

5 makeovers that change the
hub-of-the-home from
domestic drab to designer fab

BEFORE



AFTER



“
MY KITCHEN
DESIGNS ARE
[INFORMED BY]
PRACTICAL
COOKING
EXPERIENCES,
WHICH
RANGE FROM
PREPARING
LARGE DINNERS
FOR MORE THAN
100 PEOPLE
TO INTIMATE
MEALS.

”

GERALD MOROSCO, AIA



PAMPERED CHEF

MAIN INGREDIENTS

This kitchen remodel in Shadyside was undertaken as a part of a significant rehabilitation of a classic Pittsburgh four-square, Dutch Colonial-style home. The house had previously undergone a major “modern” remodeling in 1984, which was designed by Louis Sauer, then a noted Pittsburgh architect. “The kitchen had been remodeled out of what we surmised to have originally been a kitchen, butler’s pantry and servant’s stair, and was rendered in a distinctive 1960s-’70s modernist palette and proportion. All of the original historic details had been removed,” says Morosco.

SHELF SOLUTIONS

“It’s typical in our kitchen projects to plan out the contents of each cabinet and drawer, working outward from those immediately adjacent to the primary cooking area to accommodate cooking utensils, pots and pans,” says Morosco. “In this kitchen, the lower cabinets conceal deep pull-out trays that make for easy storage of — and access to — large pots and pans. The island cabinets contain pull-out trash receptacles with individual bins for garbage and recyclables. The large pantry is divided vertically with a space for brooms and includes a full height set of pull-out shelves so that everything is immediately visible.”

THE EFFICIENT KITCHEN

This kitchen is arranged into several functional areas: the primary cooking area, which forms a triangle anchored with the range and the island; a cleanup area anchored on the opposite side of the island, across from the cleanup sink with dual dishwashers; the pantry, which includes a cabinet, freezer and wine cabinet; and the breakfast space. The area adjacent to the breakfast table also functions as the rear entrance with a coat closet; nearby, there is a small planning desk — perfect for the organized chef. “In addition to these areas, the non-working side of the island has pull-up stools that allow for family and friends to participate with the person cooking without getting in the way — how ideal!” says Morosco.

THE CONTRACTORS

General contractor: Carpenter Construction, Inc. (724/837-1155, carpenterconstruction.net). Plaster and painting sub-contractor: Century Interiors, Inc. (412/366-7720, centuryinteriorsinc.com). Electrical sub-contractor: EME Electric (412/963-7255). Flooring sub-contractor: Steven Kuhn Floor Refinishing (724/348-7400). Stone countertops sub-contractor: PATCO Industries (724/600-0114). Custom wood moulding and trim supplier: Bosewell Lumber Co. (814/629-5625, shorttreeproducts.com).

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MEET THE ARCHITECT

Architect, author and lecturer Gerald Lee Morosco is the founder and president of Gerald Lee Morosco Architects, a local preservation-based architectural firm. An honors graduate from Washington & Jefferson College, he holds B.A.s in Art and English; additionally, he pursued his education through a traditional apprenticeship at Taliesin, the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture.

While at Taliesin, Morosco gained practical “hands-on” experience in both the art and practice of architecture, in construction. In 1994, the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation recognized Morosco with an Award of Merit for his achievements in historic preservation and for increasing public knowledge of Pittsburgh heritage through restoration and rehabilitation of the East Carson Street National Register District. The award-winning row house — which he shares with his partner, Paul Ford, and their mixed Border Collies — features his design and received national recognition in 1999 as a finalist in Metropolitan magazine’s Met Home of the Year Contest. Morosco has lectured on the topic of kitchen and bath design, and has been a frequent guest in The New York Times speaker series at the Architectural Digest Home Show in New York City. “My kitchen designs are [informed by] practical cooking experiences, which range from preparing large dinners for more than 100 people to intimate meals,” says Morosco.

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