



ONEkitchen

A dated duplex with mirrored floor plans gets



TWOlooks

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a makeover with two styles and two budgets.



after



Modern View

For about \$20,000, this kitchen got a complete makeover including cabinets, appliances, countertops, flooring, plumbing fixtures, and more. Designer Cathy Kramer's motto on this side of the duplex was "out with the old and in with the new."

1 **PROBLEM: Dark and dated cabinets** **SOLUTION: Keep the dark, drop the dated**

Sleek, updated cabinets took the place of the dark 1970s cabinets. "All the cabinets are standard sizes, but have a custom look," Kramer says. She chose the warm cherrywood because of the different tonal values in the graining of the wood. "The look now is a warm modern."

2 **PROBLEM: Inefficient layout** **SOLUTION: Design smart layout with zones**

The previous layout didn't allow for easy access from the garage to the living space. By taking out the peninsula, the traffic flow is more efficient. The island now provides a convenient eat-in area. Switching the location of the refrigerator and the range allows for landing space on both sides of the range. "Putting the refrigerator by the pantry gives the illusion of a custom, built-in look without the added expense," Kramer says.

3 **PROBLEM: Poor lighting** **SOLUTION: Install multiple light fixtures**

Only one natural light source and a few randomly placed light fixtures made this dark kitchen feel even more dismal. Kramer designed the lighting to brighten the work zones, walkways, and dining area. "The hidden lighting under the upper cabinets and decorative task lights above the island maximize the amount of light in the space without being overwhelming," she says.

before



before



4 PROBLEM: Outdated appliances SOLUTION: Install energy-efficient appliances

Stainless-steel appliances were not only an aesthetically pleasing choice but an energy-efficient choice, as well. "The old appliances were all white and were a high contrast against the dark cabinets, but the neutral stainless-steel finish gives the space a stylistic, modern edge," Kramer says. The sleek lines mimic the lines of the cabinets and matching satin nickel hardware.



Upgrade
to energy-
efficient
appliances.



5 **PROBLEM:** Dated surfaces **SOLUTION:** Incorporate stone-look countertops and backsplash

Harvest-gold countertops may have been all the rage when this kitchen was originally designed, but after 20 years of use, they were in dire need of replacement. Kramer chose a stone-like laminate countertop. "The straight edge on the laminate looks thick and more European than a countertop with a curved edge," Kramer says. Though a high-end look, the countertop is a cost-effective product.

Warm tones in the new stone-tile backsplash offer a softer contrast to the cherry cabinets. By changing the direction of the pieces and adding an accent border, Kramer designed the backsplash to be a subtle focal point.

before



before



6 PROBLEM: Poor traffic pattern SOLUTION: Eliminate the peninsula

A bulky peninsula had closed in the kitchen and made it feel confined. Kramer designed a floating T-shape island with seating on three sides. "I imagined the island being a place where the family could have quality conversations," she says. The new eating area takes the place of a formal dining room and creates space for food prep.



Create
a bar area
perfect for
parties.



Maximize space with pullout racks.

before



7 **PROBLEM:** Inefficient storage **SOLUTION:** Create useful storage

Although this kitchen had plenty of cabinetry, much of it wasn't useful. Many of the interior cabinet shelves were made of particleboard and were cracked and broken. The cabinet above the refrigerator was almost impossible to access and the cabinets above the peninsula were too high. "The new cabinets are loaded with storage," Kramer says. "The uppers are taller, which provides more storage." Pullout shelves make the deep base cabinets more efficient. Dividers for pots and pans, a recycling center, a pullout spice rack, and undersink add-ons pack in discreet storage. "From wine to spices to plastic bags and cleaning items, there's a place for everything," she says.



project sponsors

APPLIANCES

Samsung

BARSTOOLS

Whittier Wood

CABINETS

Shenandoah

COUNTERTOPS

Wilsonart

FLOORS

Pergo

LIGHTING

Tiella & Juno

PAINT

Valspar

PLUMBING FIXTURES

Kohler

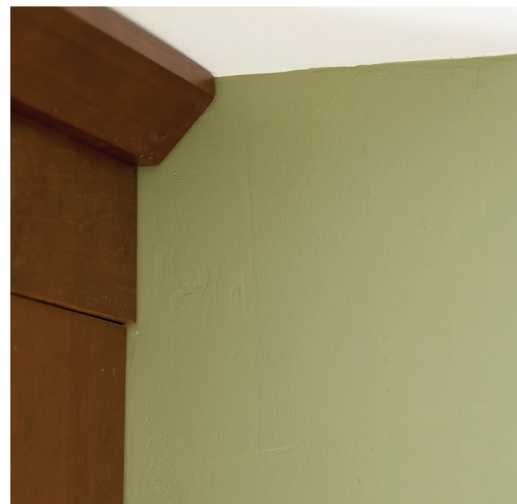
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“Find the **look** you want, and then **decide** what you’re willing to spend to **achieve** it.”

[designer Cathy Kramer]

THE RESULT:

By incorporating clean lines, warm colors, and multiple textures, Kramer achieved a high-end look for this kitchen. Some of her top budget-saving ideas: keeping the sink in the same place kept plumbing costs down, and using stock cabinetry lowered product and installation fees.

Though the footprint in this duplex kitchen didn’t expand, a new floor plan, island, appliances, cabinets, and fixtures make this space feel more open and inviting. High-tech features such as the easy-access door on the refrigerator and the warming burner on the range provide extra convenience for cooks. Kramer also made better use of storage space. “Storage is jam-packed into every corner of this kitchen,” she says. Remodeling this kitchen was easy, according to Kramer, because all of the products, except the valance fabric, came from one spot: a local Lowe’s home improvement store.

“It is possible to get your dream kitchen on a budget,” Kramer says. “Find the look you want, and then decide what you’re willing to spend to achieve it.”



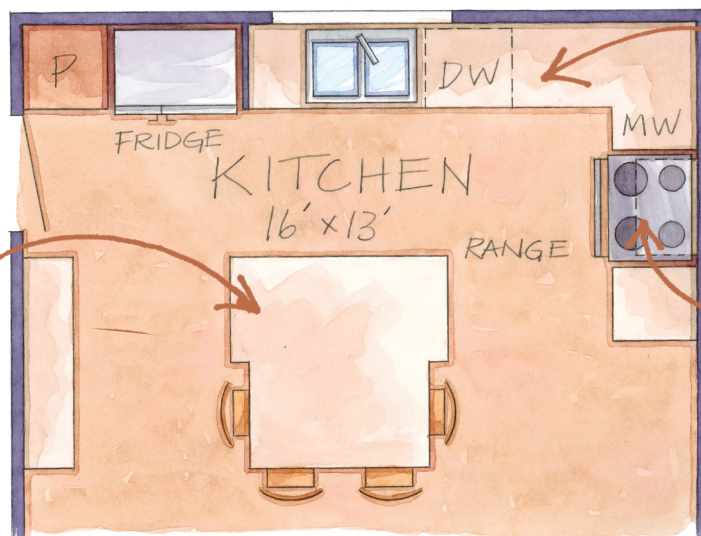
\$ budget breakdown

■ APPLIANCES	
Dishwasher	798
Microwave	298
Range	1,298
Refrigerator	2,298
■ CABINETRY	
	12,000
■ SURFACES	
Counter	260
Backsplash	547
Flooring	1,465
■ PLUMBING	
Faucet	738
Sink	245
■ MISCELLANEOUS	
Barstools	396
Pendant lighting	150
Paint	143
Valance	95
Can lighting	188
Window shade	470

TOTAL \$21,389

floor plan

Eliminating the bulky peninsula and awkward upper cabinets visually opened the space.



Designer Cathy Kramer packed storage into every possible space by including tall upper cabinets and base cabinets with pullout shelves.

This high-tech range comes equipped with five burners and a stove-top warmer. The microwave has an air vent that opens quietly when in use and closes when not in use.



after



Cottage Getaway

Instead of starting from scratch, designer Cathy Kramer salvaged the cabinets and upgraded the appliances to give this duplex kitchen a total redesign for about \$11,000.

1 **PROBLEM: Dark and dated cabinets** **SOLUTION: Give the cabinets a facelift**

When designer Cathy Kramer first set foot in this kitchen, she recognized the good bones but knew it needed a facelift. Since the cabinets were in good shape, she had them painted, added crown molding, and replaced the hardware. "Because the cabinets have the beaded-board look, it gives them a cottage feel," she says.

2 **PROBLEM: Inefficient layout** **SOLUTION: Rearrange the elements**

Kramer kept the cabinets but made them more efficient by rearranging the cabinet boxes and appliances. Moving the pantry from beside the range to the peninsula makes room for landing space on both sides of the range. Shortening the peninsula makes the kitchen feel larger.

3 **PROBLEM: Inadequate lighting** **SOLUTION: Install multiple light fixtures**

The only light in this kitchen hung from the ceiling by exposed wires. "To ensure safety, repairing the exposed wires was a priority," Kramer says. Then she immediately went to work on creating a new lighting plan. Installing multiple can lights on the ceiling and pendant lights at the sink and peninsula gives every work zone proper lighting.

before



before



4 PROBLEM: Outdated and inefficient appliances SOLUTION: Install energy-efficient appliances

White appliances blend in with the white cabinets and create a cohesive look. Kramer opted for a smooth, black cooktop that mimics the dark countertops. "The smooth cooktop is easy to clean," she says. An AccuBake feature in the oven surrounds foods with even heat to make sure items bake properly every time.



Create
unity with
an all-white
look.



5 PROBLEM: Tired, dated surfaces SOLUTION: Incorporate stone-look countertops and tile backsplash

"Talk about dated," Kramer says. "That color was last in vogue in the '70s." When she looked for new countertop options, she opted to mix materials. Dark stone-look laminate for the perimeter counters gives the space a high-end look. The butcher-block peninsula adds to the warmth of the space and makes for a sturdy surface that may eventually gain a patina.

The previous tile backsplash had loose and missing tiles. For the new backsplash, Kramer chose white mini subway tiles to add a layer of texture. "White ceramic is inexpensive yet sturdy," she says.

before



before



6 PROBLEM: Backward peninsula SOLUTION: Rearrange the cabinets

"The storage side of a peninsula should be in your kitchen," Kramer says, "not outside of it." When she saw that the peninsula was installed backward, it was simple to switch it. She also eliminated the cabinets above the peninsula to brighten the area and add visual space.





before



7 **PROBLEM: Inefficient storage** **SOLUTION: Add accessible storage**

Cabinets had wasted potential before, so Kramer rearranged the layout of the cabinets and retrofitted storage accessories. "I added pullout storage where it was most needed: next to the range where heavy pots would be stored and in the deep pantry unit," she says. She also reworked the storage in the peninsula by opening up one of the cabinet bases and making space for the microwave and towel storage. By building in the refrigerator, she eliminated the recessed cabinet above it and replaced it with an open shelf ideal for storing large platters and bowls.



project sponsors

APPLIANCES

Whirlpool

BARSTOOLS

Whittier Wood

BASKETS

The Container Store

COUNTERTOPS

Wilsonart

John Boos & Co.

FLOORS

Armstrong

HARDWARE

Amerock

LIGHTING

Kichler

PAINT

Sherwin-Williams

PANTRY STORAGE

Rockler

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To get a **custom** look on a budget, focus on the little **details**; they make a **big** difference.

THE RESULT:

Cool blues, cheery yellows, warm wood tones, and crisp whites combined to create this stunning makeover. Using the existing cabinets and simply painting them and rearranging them gave the room a new ambience. White appliances blend seamlessly with white cabinets and are much more energy-efficient than the old ones. Choosing white appliances over stainless steel was a big budget-saver.

Kramer says more is less in this kitchen. "There was too much going on before," she says. "There were too many dark elements and everything was just old and falling apart." Small changes—reversing the peninsula, installing new light fixtures, and adding custom touches such as the brackets on the peninsula—gave this kitchen a high-end, custom look.

No matter the size of your budget, with a little creativity and hard work, the kitchen of your dreams is well within reach. [Sm](#)

RESOURCES begin on page 108.



\$ budget breakdown

■ APPLIANCES

Dishwasher	699
Microwave	159
Range	1,649
Refrigerator	2,149

■ SURFACES

Butcher block	900
Counter	163
Flooring	1,525
Tile	668

■ PLUMBING

Faucet	540
Sink	427

■ MISCELLANEOUS

Barstools	417
Baskets	60
Blinds	300
Hardware	141
Paint	270
Pantry storage	310
Pendants	508
Pots and pans storage	60
Pullout garbage can	49
Valance	30

TOTAL

\$11,024

floor plan

Instead of replacing the cabinets, designer Cathy Kramer refinished them and added new hardware.

Shortening the peninsula and removing the cabinets above it opened up the room and created easier flow with the adjacent living room.



Removing the tall pantry next to the range provides landing space for cookware on both sides of the range.

A butcher block countertop makes a casual eating area at the peninsula.