

Kitchens: Transformed ... in Crystal, Minn. - daily 5 Remodel

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2011

SNAPSHOTS

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*Submit your favorite kitchen remodeling project for our March contest. The winning entry (based on a popular vote at the end of the month) will receive a **Delta Pilar Pull-Down Faucet with Touch2O technology**, shown in ad, valued at more than \$500.*

Before: "This kitchen had not been touched since the home was built in 1960: stained flush oak cabinets and trim, vinyl floor tiles, and Formica countertops and wall splash.

"The spark that lit the fire for this project was when the clients' old built-in double oven died, and they couldn't find a modern double oven the same size. This retired couple spent a lot of time baking for their children and grandchildren. They wanted a prettier, updated, more functional kitchen, with space for them to do dishes together.

"The beauty (and frustration) in working with individuals who are advanced in years is that they know exactly what they want. She told us that she was never going to leave that house and didn't care about resale; she wanted what made her happy and didn't care what anybody else thought. A creatively inspiring, and equally frightening sentence."

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After: "The clients' original selections were a reflection of the husband's strict budget and her favorite colors of bright blue and bright yellow. With a little give, take and guidance, we pulled it all together to make a cheerful, and welcoming kitchen. While we did not have major structural challenges to overcome, we got creative and were able to work within their set parameters to create the warm 'country' kitchen on their budget, and under their specific mandates.

"Better lighting was an important objective. The clients wanted general, task and decorative lighting. Therefore, we used Kichler Lighting brushed nickel decorative pendants and surface-mounted ceiling lights in addition to the new under-cabinet lights.



"We had to stay within the confines of the existing walls and keep the windows in their existing locations. That

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just made the interior details better! We installed new natural red and white oak hardwood flooring in the kitchen and down the hall to the bedrooms. The redesign also included new white appliances and a custom-blended glass-tile backsplash, which required careful coordination at rough-in electrical to ensure that outlets and switches would not end up in the tile pattern.

"The clients wash dishes by hand and did not want a dishwasher. We strongly suggested creating a space for a future DW if needed, sparking our idea of the hidden butcher-block cutting-board rolling cart. Electrical and plumbing were run to this area for ease of future DW install, yet now it holds the rolling cart with wheel locks for additional storage and pulls out to become an extension of the work space, as shown below."



"Another requirement was to incorporate the brother-in-law's handmade oak bookcase, and matching trestle table and bench. We constructed a half-wall at the entrance and modified her existing bookshelf cabinet to appear built in. This meant adding toe-kick panels, removing the existing wood top and replacing it with Corian to match the rest of the kitchen counters, and cutting down the trestle table and bench to fit the dimensions of the new space.

"Other changes included increasing useful cabinet storage, incorporating more open shelving and glass as display areas, and incorporating custom-stained and leaded glass created by another relative.

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"This kitchen now appeals to the general consumer -- bright, fresh and inviting -- as well as the homeowner. She told us they receive constant compliments from neighbors, friends, and family and sometimes she just stands in the kitchen 'admiring the work and loving it!"

Laura L. Orfield-Skrivseth, [Orfield Design & Construction](#),

Special thanks to Delta Faucets for sponsoring the March contest.

To enter, email no more than two before photos and no more than two after photos, along with a brief narrative explaining the client's challenges and how you solved them, to snapshots@daily5Remodel.com. In the subject line, write "kitchens: transformed."

Would you like to comment on this article?

Arch-DesGA1211 1 hour ago

Good point, Greg! Listening to your client goes a loooooong way!

DB-RemdMA1021 1 hour ago

What an awesome example of a designer actually LISTENING to a client's wants and needs. Incorporating the bro-in-law's creations was probably not easy, but very important to the client. The rolling cutting board/cart idea is a stroke of genius...again listening to their preferences, but ensuring they don't shoot themselves in the foot regarding resale. Bravo!!!
-Greg Antonioli

Arch-DesGA1211 2 hours ago

I would stand in the kitchen "admiring the work and loving it", too! Great transformation and incorporation of the brother-in-law's bookcase!