

Adding Storage

WRITTEN BY JEANNIE MATTEUCCI



BEFORE: A tight, island-free layout cramped the old space. "It was a typical galley kitchen," says designer Jason DeBaker. **AFTER:** The new center island is loaded with storage, plus a concealed microwave and a second dishwasher.

FAMILY-FRIENDLY AND EFFICIENT

Chris and Beth Glass' 150-square-foot galley kitchen in Northfield, Illinois, wasn't especially old or unattractive, but it was cramped. "Whenever I cooked, I had to use up every inch of space," says Beth. "The kitchen just didn't have enough storage or countertops." The couple, who have two school-age sons, wanted a kitchen where they could entertain family and friends. They hired Jason DeBaker, of Orren Pickell Designers & Builders in Lincolnshire, Illinois, to help them upgrade the space. "One of the biggest goals was gaining bulk storage for a growing family," says DeBaker. A 5-foot opening between the kitchen and the adjacent family room was expanded to 15 feet. The exterior wall of the kitchen was pushed back 10 feet, enlarging the main cooking zone. Pro-style appliances complete this now 300-square-foot kitchen transformation. The new space now has that clean look Beth loves. "I think it has become a focal point for our home," she says. "It's warm, inviting and a great gathering place for family and friends."

IN THE DETAILS

BUTLER'S PANTRY With glass-front cabinets above, to show off glassware, and closed cabinets below, for table linens, the butler's pantry stores tabletop items. A separate walk-in pantry for dry goods is sited on the opposite wall.

DESK AREA Located to the left of the refrigerator, the kitchen's new desk area has file storage, open shelves for cookbooks and a built-in corkboard.

CABINETRY Raising the ceiling 18 inches made room for taller cabinets and more storage. The antique-white finish, polished nickel pulls and glass knobs offer the traditional style Chris and Beth wanted.

SURFACES Honed green granite on the island contrasts with the Calcutta marble counters and polished tile backsplash.

2 SPECIALIZED STORAGE

A South Salem, New York, couple had been contemplating changes to their 120-square-foot builder's grade kitchen for 20 years before they were finally motivated to upgrade. "The dishwasher went kaput—that was the final straw," says the husband. The empty-nesters knew they wanted more cabinets, high-end appliances and better lighting, with a contemporary style that would complement the rest of their home. To help, the couple hired designer Jason Landau, of Amazing Spaces in Briarcliff Manor, New York. "The old kitchen didn't take advantage of the space they had," he says. To open things up, he removed a wall and a peninsula and relocated and enlarged the window. The new layout allowed Landau to add an angled center island with open and closed storage and a polished Bordeaux granite top. "I wanted to focus the new opening into the kitchen on this island and the window behind it," he says. In addition to the island storage, the couple have cubbyholes for wine bottles, open shelves for collectibles and sliding wire shelves under the cooktop for pots and pans. The easy-to-clean white Corian counters make the brushed and flamed granite backsplash pop. "I think we created a comfortable living and work space that flows," says the husband. "Everything is perfectly situated."

BEFORE: With the dark, sloped ceiling and dark wood cabinets, the old kitchen was a dreary place to prepare meals.

AFTER: Designer Jason Landau came up with a plan that makes the now 264-square-foot kitchen more inviting and functional.

IN THE DETAILS

APPLIANCES The couple enjoy cooking for family and friends, and wanted to upgrade. They now have a pro-style cooktop with separate double ovens, a large refrigerator with a bottom freezer and a large-capacity stainless steel dishwasher.

CABINETS Frameless maple cabinets give the homeowners the storage they craved. Stained in two different colors, the sleek cabinets have Shaker-style doors and stainless pulls, with a few rippled-glass upper cabinets that lighten the look of the room. A large pantry system near the refrigerator provides storage for staples.

LIGHTING A new skylight and the relocated and enlarged sink window provide plenty of natural light. A combination of recessed cans, undercabinet lighting and pendants over the island—all on dimmers—complete the lighting scheme.

FLOORS The homeowners were able to save some money by retaining their existing oak-plank floor. "We choose a darker color to contrast with the cabinets," says Landau.





BEFORE: With white laminate cabinets, white countertops and a white linoleum tile floor, the old kitchen looked very dated.

AFTER: Quarter-sawn oak cabinets with hammered-bronze hardware provide storage in a style that suits the Arts and Crafts home.

3 STORAGE WITH STYLE

Joe and Jenny Shanahan loved the classic architecture of their shingle-style Victorian in Chicago's historic Andersonville neighborhood, but weren't so happy with the 204-square-foot kitchen. The couple, parents of two school-age kids, hoped to create a more functional space that would better fit with the 1904 house. They turned to the local firm Greene & Proppe Design, which specializes in historic renovations. "We wanted to give them larger appliances, an eating area in the kitchen and good storage," says designer Rick Proppe. After eliminating a sitting area off the back of the kitchen, the rear wall was moved and the room extended so the cooking zone was in full sight of the adjacent den. This made way for Jenny's favorite part of the kitchen: a commodious walk-in pantry. In addition to staples, the pantry also holds the microwave, which used to hog counter space. A pro-style range with double ovens, improved lighting and a charming farmhouse sink helped transform the now 360-square-foot kitchen. "I love that people don't know where the old part of the house ends and the new part begins," says Jenny.

IN THE DETAILS

BACKSPLASH A coffee table with a tile inlay inspired the kitchen's striking backsplash of gold tile with turquoise accents. "I wanted specific tiles, and we worked everything from that," says Jenny. "They're not truly iridescent, but do have some of that luminous quality."

COLORS In addition to warming up the decor, the dark oak floor gives the kitchen depth. "Darker floors tend to ground rooms, not make them seem heavier," says designer Rick Proppe. Painted surfaces—butter-yellow walls, pale green beadboard, light blue ceiling—depart from natural finishes.

ISLAND Open shelves for cookbooks and three closed cabinets with roll-outs and drawers make the center island another useful storage space in the kitchen. Almost eight feet long, the island features a wood top that matches the surrounding cabinets with a base painted hunter green for contrast. ♦