



## 4

# Ready to Entertain

*Artistic Renovations of Ohio*

**IT'S A PROBLEM FOUND** often in older homes: The kitchen is secluded and the chef spends most of their time with their back to family and friends while cooking. In this case, the kitchen dated back to the 1980s and the space was neither functional nor suitable for entertaining.

"He loves to cook and wanted to be with everybody while he was cooking," says Ken Perrin, owner of Artistic Renovations of Ohio, about the home's owner. "We started looking at how to rearrange things."

Perrin delivered greater functionality by moving the refrigerator from across the room to where the range used to be near the sink, as well as recreating the island in a different spot with a Wolf range. He also met the owner's needs of more organized storage by taking out huge closet doors with metal shelving and replacing them with built-in pantries with rollouts.

The owners still loved the cherry accents from the original kitchen, so Perrin installed Amish custom-built cabinets with a white glaze on the perimeter and cherry wood on the island to make it really pop. He accented that with porcelain tile for the flooring, and

a handmade ceramic tile for the backsplash. Perrin also added taupe-colored outlets and switches for a subtle, sophisticated look. "It's little things like that where people know it looks good but they don't know why," he says.

One of the biggest challenges of the renovation was moving the refrigerator, which was not a built-in, to an outside wall. It required cutting into the wall system, reframing to put in a header and adding insulation foamed into the exterior wall. During the renovation process, Perrin uncovered a leak

from an upstairs bathroom, which had to be fixed from below without disturbing the bathroom. He also rerouted the plumbing from the soffits in the kitchen to the soffits in the utility room.

"He couldn't stand the thought of losing all those upper cabinets," Perrin says. "That little bit of work made a huge impact on the usability and the style of the kitchen."

In the end, Perrin says, it takes some imagination to take the exact same space and rearrange it, which is exactly what he did. They did not take any extra space with this kitchen, just redefined it to make it more functional and ready for entertaining. —JP

## NUTS & BOLTS

**HOME ADDRESS:**  
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 Independence

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**PROJECT FOCUS:**  
 Kitchen Remodel

