



2

Function and Flow

Remodel Me Today

THE HOMEOWNERS of this Olmsted Township property envisioned a kitchen where they could entertain — a far cry from the cramped peninsula with two stools they had. The 1950s house had been added on to over the years, so the kitchen layout felt like an afterthought and the first-floor plan had segregated spaces that lacked flow.

But the property itself is a find, set on a 3-acre lot with a river that runs through it. The wooded backdrop is a natural playground for kids, and an in-ground pool provides recreation for the whole family. So, the homeowners decided to invest in a renovation that would not only update their kitchen and main living spaces, but also reconfigure the layout so it would be more open.

That meant removing a load-bearing wall between the 10-foot by 10-foot kitchen and same-size dining area. “We basically gutted that area and

reworked the windows along the wall to accommodate new cabinetry,” says Brian Pauley, owner of Remodel Me Today. A flush-mount beam was installed to support the home, and floors were leveled between the two spaces to make room for engineered hardwood floors in a walnut-stained hickory.

“Because of the work done over the years, there was about an inch of difference in the elevation at the transition between the two rooms, so we went down to the sub-floor and reworked it to get it level,” Pauley explains.

A 20-foot wall of cabinetry significantly expands the kitchen’s storage capabilities. The Shaker-style white glazed cabinetry tie into the floor, which was inspired by the family’s special dining room table, a custom walnut piece. Adding bench seating and selecting complementary flooring showcases the dining furniture,

Pauley says.

The kitchen includes modern conveniences, such as a pot-filler behind the range, audio visual wiring for ceiling-mounted speakers and recessed lighting.

Now, the kitchen is a popular destination for the family’s friends, which includes their boys’ baseball teams. “The old space just didn’t function for that type of entertaining, and now they can accommodate a lot of people,” Pauley says, adding that the farmhouse aesthetic matches the home’s style and the property’s setting. “Looking at the before and after pictures — the client still can’t believe the transformation that took place.”

— KH

NUTS & BOLTS

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PROJECT FOCUS:

Kitchen

