



By removing the brick wall and dramatically raising the ceiling, a cramped mid-century kitchen was transformed into a spacious entertainment area. In this remodeling project by Kitchen Design Concepts, unusual materials like Akatai mosaic tile and "antique glass" Avonite counters lend color and luminosity to the eclectic space. (After photos) by Alayna Morris.



TOTALLY RETRO

(estimate: \$80,000)

Two years ago, Eddie and Carol Bowers bought a small, outdated home in Dallas' Preston Hollow area and began plans for altering the floorplan to suit their tastes.

Carol explains that they were fans of '50s mid-century modern architecture and favored the retro décor often found in such homes, but their kitchen was "a very claustrophobic space."

She notes: "It was small and very outdated, and had a low ceiling that didn't take advantage of the higher roof line of the home."

Utilizing home design software, the couple explored ideas for blending the kitchen and living room into a large, party-friendly space and agreed that the first thing to go should be a large brick wall and fireplace that separated the living room from the kitchen.

Eventually, the couple hooked up with Kitchen Design Concepts and plans were cemented. Carol says they ate a lot of takeout and frozen dinners in the bedroom from January to July 2005, but they have no complaints about the results. Jennifer Reese-Sherrill, president of Kitchen Design Concepts, says, "Major construction was involved as well as a radical design," with the end result being a transformation of the small, cramped

kitchen gallery and an adjoining family room into "an incredible space."

Besides the removal of the brick wall and fireplace, the project involved raising the kitchen's 8-foot ceiling to follow the tall slope of the home's angled roofline. "That allowed us to put in windows above to bring in more light," Carol says.

Additionally, the couple, as self-professed "internet junkies," found a variety of their own design components, including the Akatai mosaic tile used on the backsplash, the open-hole pulls for the cabinetry by a company called Mockit and the green vintage-styled fridge from Dacor.

"I thought we'd just have to put in a basic big stainless model, but then we discovered this instead and it has that wonderful, old look even though it's a brand new refrigerator," Carol says.

She also touts the new kitchen's stainless cabinet that displays servingware instead of hiding it and "antique glass" Avonite counters that glow when the light hits them. Marazzi tile floors give the enlarged space a unified look and extra touches include lighting from Meletio.

"It's all one big room now with a lot of continuity and a nice flow," Carol says.

Adds Reese-Sherrill: "It's not what you'd expect to see inside when you see the home from outside either. It's a nice surprise."

after



before



Tearing out a brick wall and dramatically raising the ceiling changed a cramped mid-century modern kitchen into a spacious entertainment area. In this remodeling project by Kitchen Design Concepts, unusual materials like Akatai mosaic tile and "antique glass" Avonite counters lend color and luminosity to the eclectic space. Photography (after photos) by Alayna Morris.

after



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