by MARY KATHRYN REESE

Modern Functionality

THE PROBLEM

This galley kitchen was getting old and tired. The appliances were aged, the linoleum floors were dated, the look was out of style, and functionality was made for another era. An L-shaped cabinet at the kitchen's entrance cut the room off from the home's other living spaces. The homeowners were looking for an update that reflected their 21st-century taste and lifestyle.

THE SOLUTION

Improving the room's space was the first concern, so Kitchen Design Concepts knocked out the L-shaped counter, opening the kitchen up to the breakfast room and living spaces beyond. New cork flooring extending from the kitchen through the formal living and dining rooms helped to complete the sense of unity between these areas.

Space was borrowed from a garage storage closet to create a fully flush wall at the end of the kitchen that features a dry bar and multi-level cabinets. A counter-depth refrigerator was used rather than a free-standing one to improve the walkway and sightlines through the kitchen.

Style-wise, this kitchen has had a complete makeover. Black granite countertops, sleek cabinets and stainless appliances give the room a fresh, contemporary look. The natural grain in the room's cork flooring and a split-face travertine backsplash have an organic feel that softens the room. This kitchen is no longer just a room to prepare a meal or two — it's an inviting living space where the homeowners want to relax and spend time together.

KEY MATERIALS

Cabinetry: Claret Maple finished cabinets from UltraCraft's Vision line and the Roma Collection from Kitchen Design Concepts, 214.390.8300, www.kitchendesignconcepts.com
Countertops: Absolute Black granite polished from IMC, www.imcstone.com
Floors: Cronus Natural cork floors from the Naturals Collection by APC Cork, available from FastFloors.com, www.fastfloors.com
Backsplash: Champagne Gold 1x2 mosaic split face-travertine from Daltile, www.daltileproducts.com
Refrigerator: KitchenAid Architect series, www.kitchenaid.com
Faucet: Divo Arco by KWC, www.kwcamerica.com

Kitchen Design Concepts is a design and remodeling company that specializes in personalizing and optimizing clients' kitchens. Visit their showroom at 2741 E. Beltline Rd., Ste. 113 in Carrollton (214.390.8300, www.kitchendesignconcepts.com).