Remodeling a Dated Kitchen and Bathroom

Jason and Alyssa wanted to update their dark, dated kitchen and dysfunctional master bathroom. Their home was built in 1964 and they were only the second owners. Most of the appliances and the décor had been the same since the ‘60s. The dark cabinetry, white appliances, and linoleum flooring were made even more dated by the retro wallpaper. The master bathroom had a pink sink and very old square tiles on the walls. Everything looked like it had been very well taken care of in the home, but the styles were vintage and somewhat dreary.

According to Alyssa there were many things about their kitchen and bathroom that were making their home less than functional as well: “The master bath shower literally didn’t work, and it only had one sink. The kitchen had a half wall to the dining room, and we wanted a more open design. We wanted a 21st century kitchen with a large sink and a gas stove; it was also lacking ample lighting and storage space.”

The couple wanted the kitchen and master bathroom of their home transformed into light and bright spaces with a timeless look. They wanted to keep cabinetry, stone, tile, décor, and fixtures simple by using more neutral colors and traditional styles.

In the master bath, the shower has white subway tile in a matte finish. A farm-stand style sink replaced the pink sink from before. The sink is set into a tiered white vanity with marble-topped side counters. There is lovely hexagon tiled flooring in their new glass-enclosed shower. The wide wooden plank flooring is the same as the kitchen and flows into the bathroom making the design cohesive.

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CHOOSING THE IDEAL KITCHEN LAYOUT

Rather than jumping on the trend bandwagon when selecting a kitchen layout, take some time for careful consideration. After all, everyone has different lifestyles and needs. For many families the kitchen is the center of the home—a common area for meals, family, and entertainment. With more household members cooking to accommodate busy schedules, and multiple cooks in one space, there are a variety of considerations to make when selecting a layout. Ask yourself these questions:

- How many people will be cooking at one time?
- How much counter and cabinet space do you need?
- What is your favorite “work triangle?” A work triangle refers to the configuration of the main kitchen components—sink, stove, and refrigerator.
- Do you need an open concept or prefer something closed off?

STRAIGHT LINE OR “PULLMAN” KITCHENS

For apartment dwellers a straight line, or “Pullman,” kitchen layout may be ideal. This layout lacks a classic work triangle. All the appliances are on the same wall as the sink, so maintaining this small kitchen is simple. One trick to achieving this kitchen with all of the amenities of larger kitchens, is selecting appliances that fit without sacrificing quality, utility, or design.

GALLEY FOR ONE

A galley kitchen is a popular choice if you live alone or one family member does the cooking, especially in smaller homes. Updated versions of the classic galley include features like a pass-through into a dining room, or a counter with convenient seating. Some homeowners may prefer to have a closed galley kitchen, particularly if they do not do a lot of cooking at home. Others prefer the privacy of a closed-off kitchen so that other family members can watch television or entertain guests in another room.

If you have a galley style layout in a home with multiple cooks, it can be a substantial annoyance trying to prepare meals together due to the tight working triangle, and you may want to consider a different layout.

L-SHAPED FOR ENTERTAINING

An L-shaped layout is an attractive choice for entertaining and one of the most popular layouts. The L layout transforms awkward corners into useable space. An island with seating can be a perfect choice for staying connected during mealtimes.

Because L-shaped kitchens are often situated next to another room there is plenty of space for guests to gather while you continue prepping food. There is even room for a table and seating in a room connected to the kitchen. The work triangle of the L layout is incredibly efficient. The flow of the space will naturally draw guests to congregate in this part of your home.

U LAYOUT: HORSESHOE KITCHENS FOR TOGETHERNESS

For family members who want separate workspaces while still cooking together a U, or horseshoe, kitchen is ideal. The horseshoe requires three walls, so it is better for homeowners with space to spare. U-shaped layouts offer a continuous flow of countertops and cabinets, and this layout maximizes storage and work surfaces.

A variation on the U-shaped layout is the G layout kitchen. Normally a kitchen is configured into a G-shape with the inclusion of a peninsula. An island may or may not accompany the peninsula in a G-shaped kitchen. The result can be a cozier, more closed-off feel that only mildly impacts the space’s work triangle.

Remember that a kitchen remodel is the perfect time to consider the functionality of your layout and change it accordingly. Choose a layout that will accommodate your lifestyle for many years to come.
SEVENTIES FLASHBACK

USING COLORS, TEXTURES, AND SLEEK LINES

You may be surprised to hear that 70s style décor is making a comeback, but the flashbacks currently trending are not vintage avocado green couches or disco balls. Instead, a mixture of various styles is emerging. Decorators are creating distinctive looks by combining contemporary styles, midcentury modern pieces, and elements of the 1970s.

A favorite throwback from the 70s is the use of bold color palettes. Earth tones like terracotta orange, mustard yellow, and emerald green are big right now. The warmer colors bring a natural feel into rooms with lots of glass and metal touches, softening the lines. Meanwhile, jeweled hues like turquoise, crimson, and royal blue are bringing the glamorous and the dramatic into play in these spaces.

Woven textures are another earthy element, and they are showing up in macramé wall hangings, throws, pillows, and rugs with a handmade feel. Geometric patterns mimic the look of a woven texture without the tactile results, but with a smooth and modern mood.

Lines are key when using these particular trends. Furniture with rounded edges using 70s-inspired color palettes is gaining popularity. Circular tables and metal and wood combinations are distinctive. Velvet tufted upholstery, with low profile curves, against gleaming metal frames creates a feel of luxury combined with utility.

The use of sleek lines is prevalent in statement lighting as well. Metals like brass, chrome, and nickel are mirrored from the furnishings to the lighting. Chandeliers, like the one-of-a-kind sputnik chandelier, bring a taste of midcentury modern into the mix, pairing beautifully with the colors, textures, and lines of the trendiest rooms.

Custom Home Entertainment: Family Theaters

Do you enjoy going to the movies or would you rather stay home? Are you dedicated to watching movies the way some people are devoted to their hobbies? Many cinephiles enjoy watching films in the comfort of their homes. One reason custom home theaters have become so popular is that more people enjoy entertaining friends at home, or they prefer an intimate gathering of family complete with all of the perks of a public theater—large screen format, projector, surround sound, and comfortable seating. Unlike a public movie theater, the audience is comprised of people you know, and the snacks are tailored to your exact tastes.

If you have a room in your home that is under-used, why not have a custom home theater added to your home? There are a variety of options available, from opulent Old Hollywood style rooms conjuring nostalgia, to this sleek and modern theater with comfortable beige couches contrasting with the rows of dark cabinetry. There are plenty of places to store all of your movies as well as a wonderful black backdrop for your large screen.

Soundproofing is ideal in these types of spaces, allowing other members of the household to sleep or enjoy other activities undisturbed. Some people opt for custom or vintage movie theater style seating rather than couches; others prefer cushions on the floor for a casual design. You can choose whatever features you prefer for your home theater. The point is to create a marvelous room for entertaining and a fun alternative to the hobby room for your family’s movie hobbyist.
FROM ‘60s TIME CAPSULE TO TIMELESS

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For the kitchen, they chose a lovely shade of green for the walls and a clean, white backsplash of glossy subway tiles. They selected a white farmhouse sink, white cabinetry with brushed stainless hardware, and wide oak flooring in a medium-light brown stain. The appliances are all stainless—including the stove’s hood, wall oven and wall-mounted microwave, and a countertop drop-in gas stove. They selected several different glass-fronted cabinets for china and pantry storage, as well as some adjustable storage shelves. Their moveable island with matching white, butcher block style countertop, and stainless shelves ties in all of the various elements of their contemporary farmhouse kitchen. The island even provides extra seating with a pair of barstools.

Alyssa said that everything about the finished remodel excites the couple and they love the light and ease of access to everything in their kitchen. She also notes that having two individual bathroom sinks is a luxury, since they used to live in a townhome where the master bathroom had only one sink for them to share.

Like most of our clients, Alyssa and Jason heard about us through word of mouth. A friend recommended us to them.

Alyssa says she liked the organization of Tim’s office, and that Carolie and Jennifer were wonderful to work with, along with the construction team. Their favorite part of the design process was using the Co-Construct app, which they loved. They appreciated how easy it was to curate their many item choices. The T.W. Ellis team also worked with them to problem solve when some choices needed to be changed mid-way and late in the game. During the construction process, they appreciated Tim’s check-ins and updates. His expertise in helping them make the most logical and aesthetic decisions once construction began also impressed them. “Tim’s team was incredibly efficient and met the deadlines he projected.”

Do you have a time capsule space in your home that is crying out for a remodel? We can help you make your space beautiful, functional, and timeless. Contact T.W. Ellis today to get started!