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Woman's Day Kitchens & Baths
Volume 11, Number 3
September 15, 2008
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2 lighter and brighter

The kitchen in Faye and Richard Rosenberg's Northbrook, Illinois, home was definitely ready for a change. "We only had one narrow pantry cabinet, one little counter and no place to display my antiques," says Faye. The couple, who share their home with their three daughters, hired Jeff Eichhorn, of Orren Pickell Designers & Builders in Lincolnshire, Illinois, to create a brighter space with more storage and a better connection with the rest of the house. "We really wanted to harmonize the main areas of their home," says Eichhorn, who pushed the kitchen out seven feet in two directions and combined and expanded the kitchen and breakfast room. A mix of white-painted and pine cabinets keep the kitchen clutter-free. A center island with four built-in storage bins, durable granite counters and a distressed tumbled stone tile floor create the sophisticated farmhouse feel the couple wanted. "It's functional beyond belief," Faye says, "and it's extremely welcoming."



BEFORE: The layout of the old 150-square-foot space created a tight passage between the kitchen and breakfast room.

AFTER: A new pro-style four-burner range with a pot filler and shelf creates a focal point for the new 400-square-foot kitchen.

IN THE DETAILS

- ◆ **CORNER SINK** An extra-deep stainless steel sink anchors the corner of the kitchen and gives Faye panoramic views of her backyard through large casement windows. "It lets me wash big pots and pans," says Faye. "You don't see dishes when you walk in."
- ◆ **HUTCH** Located at the far end of the kitchen, a glass-front hutch gives Faye a place to display her collection of antique pottery and glassware. "I love being able to see my pieces," says Faye. It also gives the couple the perfect spot to set out a buffet for dinner parties.
- ◆ **WARMING DRAWER** One of Faye's favorite additions to her kitchen is the electric warming drawer. "I love it and use it constantly," she says. "I recommend going for the biggest one possible." The drawer has three settings and allows Faye to keep plates hot while she prepares daily meals or hosts dinner parties.



PHOTOGRAPH: ALAN SHORTALL STYLIST: SUSAN VICTORIA



BEFORE & AFTER



BEFORE: The old kitchen had knotty pine cabinets that had seen better days.

AFTER: A large center island with seating and storage anchors the now 310-square-foot kitchen.

3 total transformation

While Daniel and Anne Marie Dangler, of Wellesley, Massachusetts, loved their traditional Cape Cod-style house, they were not so thrilled with its dated 200-square-foot kitchen. "It needed a lot of updating," says Anne Marie. "There was not enough seating space and it had no dishwasher. For 12 years, I had to wash every dish by hand." The couple, who share their home with their 11-year-old daughter Hannah, hired designer Mariette Barsoum, CKD, owner of Divine Kitchens of Westborough, Massachusetts, to create an updated two-cook kitchen that flows with the rest of the home's first floor. "This project was part of an addition," says Barsoum, who gutted the old kitchen and created a larger, more open floor plan adjacent to the family room. In addition to the dishwasher drawers Anne Marie desperately wanted, the kitchen now includes a convection oven, built-in microwave and warming drawer. The couple splurged on a high-end, pro-style cooktop but saved money with a moderately priced stainless steel refrigerator. Other decisions, like choosing red oak for the floor and an unusual Italian granite for the counters, helped this warm and inviting kitchen come together. "Anne Marie wanted a space where you can come home, take off your shoes and just relax—and that's what they now have," says Barsoum. ♦

IN THE DETAILS

- ♦ **BACKSPLASH** Small tumbled stone tiles set in a running bond pattern create a rustic backsplash that complements the granite used on the island and perimeter counters. "I think the natural materials really go well together," says Anne Marie. "If we used shiny ceramic tiles there, it wouldn't fit the room." Custom Asian-inspired metal inserts behind the cooktop create a pleasing focal point.
- ♦ **CABINETS** A combination of finishes was used to visually connect the kitchen and family room. Painted and glazed cabinets in a soft cream tone were used for the main wall of cabinets while stained cherry was chosen for the island base and nearby butler's pantry and desk area. Glass cabinets around the sink window make the kitchen feel more spacious and allow Anne Marie to display her pottery collection.
- ♦ **LIGHTING** Because this kitchen doesn't get very much natural light, a combination of recessed ceiling fixtures, under-cabinet lights and three pendants over the island—all on dimmers—illuminate the space and make it feel comfortable and inviting.