

COUNTRY *elegance*

a kitchen design blending functionality with personalities



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With the children grown and out of the house, two empty-nesters desired to revitalize the hub of their home while maintaining

the comfort and familiarity their kitchen had always provided. The update of the 30+ year-old kitchen involved a broad range of renovations and replacements.

Keeping the same general footprint of the room, the couple wanted to

add special features including a desk area, a hutch in which to display a collection of Williamsburg pottery, and a built-in refrigerator. They were referred to Village Kitchen & Bath in Leola by a former client to begin their design project.

Our design team worked closely with the homeowners, learning their tastes and ideas, giving them a precise working schedule to follow, and making suggestions to help stay within the set budget.

In the finished kitchen, warm cherry cabinetry meets the ceiling, while the illuminated hutch and desk area with a beadboard back are lowered to reflect a sense of charm and variety. The hutch, an essential part of the decorative design, boasts doors with German antique glass, adding to the established ambience of the kitchen.



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Under-cabinet lighting enhances the warmth of the tile backsplash and newly-installed recessed lighting reflects off the rich, black granite.

Standing beside the hutch with its face hidden by a cabinet façade is the 36-inch Sub-Zero refrigerator with freezer drawers.

Not only is it functional with a variety of modern amenities and conveniences, but it is reflective of the homeowners' personalities and lifestyles—just as it should be.

The homeowners wanted to utilize the space more efficiently, so we removed the pantry to make space for the fridge



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The illuminated hutch allows the homeowners to display their cherished souvenirs, as the antique German glass adds to the established ambiance of the kitchen.

and hutch, and added a built-in pantry with roll-outs. An island, both aesthetic and functional, was added as a preparation and serving station. The piece, reminiscent of heirloom furniture, has the same surface as the rest of the kitchen—glistening black granite.

Appliances are focal points of the kitchen, and homeowners will often concentrate on them before the cabinetry. In this room, however, the appliances were incorporated smoothly into the design, playing a more subtle role. The black microwave is built into the cabinetry, the smooth-top GE range and convection oven is accented with a mantle-like decorative hood, and the Bosch dish-washer is integrated with a cabinet front. Guests come into the kitchen and ask the homeowners where the dishwasher is because they can't find it.

Fronted appliances, illuminated display cases, islands, and personality-reflective cabinetry



The desk and hutch play a fundamental role in the aesthetic aspect of the design, while the built-in refrigerator is less noticeable with its cabinet front.

are only a few of today's kitchen trends. One of the most vital updates is sufficient and convenient storage. In their kitchen, the homeowners included various means of storage and organization such as a Lazy Susan, roll-out shelves, tray dividers, and soft-closed drawers which the couple absolutely love.

The homeowners also desired to improve the lighting in their dimly lit kitchen. After taking down the singular light in the middle of the ceiling, new recessed lights were installed. Under-cabinet lighting was added, setting

off the shimmer in the granite and enhancing the vibrancy of the cheerful, Durango stone backsplash with glass tile accents. Outlet strips were also hidden under the cabinets so as not to impose on the lovely tile design.

Contributing to the country farmhouse atmosphere of the kitchen is new, bronze oak flooring to replace old vinyl. The 4 ½ -inch-wide planks evoke a classic air, the perfect resting surface for the homeowners' cherished farm table and benches. These character pieces are a sentimental and indispensable part of the kitchen's expression

of "home, sweet home," for the empty-nesters shared meals with their children at the planked table for years.

Ultimately, the newly renovated kitchen serves its purpose as a comfortable, central, gathering place for family and friends. Not only is it functional with a variety of modern amenities and conveniences, but it is reflective of the homeowners' personalities and lifestyles—just as it should be.

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