

HOME STYLE

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COOKING UP A contemporary kitchen



Michael E. Young / The Enquirer

Staying within a budget didn't mean Brian and Yoon Berman had to do without high-end extras in the kitchen update of their mid-century modern home. More on how they did it, **E3**.

By Jay Kraft / JayK@enquirer.com

When Brian and Koco Berman bought their mid-century modern ranch in Montfort Heights in November 2006 they knew there was work to be done. The bedrooms were a palette of pastels and the kitchen was wallpapered in pink stripes. Counter space was at a minimum - a big minus for Koco, a chef by trade.

"It looked like a really bad 'Brady Bunch' kitchen," says Brian, a freelance musician.

The cabinets were dark wood, even the floor was pink - in a diamond pattern - and the cooktop controls were push buttons, at eye level, on the range hood.

"It was pretty nasty looking," says Koco with an odd angled wall on one side that ate into counter space and a doorway to the dining area.

To get the open, airy kitchen up to Koco's standards they knew they had to remodel. And they

wanted something in line with the clean contemporary lines they were restoring to the rest of the house.

Contemporary kitchens, like the one they were after, are increasingly popular, says Judy Sawchenko of Cookline Kitchen & Bath Design in Fairfield, one of the exhibitors at this weekend's Greater Cincinnati Kitchen, Bath & Design Show in Covington.

"I see contemporary kitchens in traditional homes as well," she says, citing an 1800s brownstone project in Over-the-Rhine with original fireplaces and woodwork and a "very modern" kitchen.

"You just have to know how to mix it up."



Inside

Contemporary kitchens and high-end appliances, **E3**.

FROM THE COVER

Savvy planning saves in kitchen upgrade

By Jay Koell
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The budget was an important part of Brian and Koco Baverma's kitchen redesign in Mount Heights.

They wanted more storage, an open feel and additional workspace without the cost of re-locating plumbing and electrical lines.

But that didn't mean the couple had to cut corners on quality, says Julie Savchenko of Colette Kitchen & Bath Design in Fairfield.

"We were able to find a cabinet manufacturer - Sammy - based in Hong Kong that ships unassembled but is put together onsite," like many others on the market.

"The difference is the quality of materials," Savchenko says. Doors are 3/4-inch thick, compared to the more common 1/2-inch or 5/8-inch.

'Frosted glass cabinets give kitchens a more modern edge.'

Designer Julie Savchenko

The style the Bavermas chose looks like bleached wood, a gray color, but they are not a laminate that can peel off over time. Instead, they are a thermally finished finish that wraps around the door so there's no banding. Frosted glass-front cabinets were added to complement the wood look.

The other upgrade the couple chose was a replacement for the existing lay down corner cabinet. The new cabinet in the same space pulls straight out, with storage on the door, then swings open at 90-degree angle revealing two wire shelves in back.

"A lot of people don't add these upgrades because they're expensive," says Savchenko. "It's like an after-market part. But even a budget-friendly kitchen like this, you just have to add them before the countertops are installed."

The refrigerator was moved a few feet into an old pantry space, giving them more counter space. The angled wall was straightened and another wall half removed between the kitchen and dining room allowing them to have a counter for stools and more light.

Old soffits also were removed so cabinets could go up to the ceiling for bonus storage, and an extra-deep, rectangular sink gave Koco surely needed prep and clean-up space.

New stainless steel appliances, sand-colored Duracoremic flooring by Cosagoleam and muted green speckled quartz countertops by LG completed the new



Michael E. Koczo

The dimly lit, pink kitchen of old is now bright and sunny with clean, sleek lines and updated appliances.

look, along with recessed lighting, a new ceiling and horizontal walls.

Grilling out and using the bathtub as a dishwasher during the renovation was worth it, says the couple.

"Now we have twice as much counter space and storage as before," says Koco. "And I have my sink."

If you go

What: Greater Cincinnati Kitchen, Bath & Design Show, with information from more than 100 remodeling contractors, design suppliers.

When: 10 a.m.-9 p.m. today and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday.

Where: Northern Kentucky Convention Center, Covington.

Tickets: \$5, free for ages 13 and under.

Parking: At nearby garages and lots.

Extras: Food and nutrition demos throughout the show.

Information: www.hartproductions.com, 513-281-0022.