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# We've Found the Recipe for an Amazing Kitchen

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Whether you are Julia Childs reincarnated, the hostess with the mostess or simply love to gather around a home-cooked meal, you can appreciate the beauty of an amazing kitchen. And the recipe to achieve such a kitchen is as follows: function, flow and style. The best kitchens marry practicalities and design to create a useable space that acts as the central gathering place for family and friends. If you are looking for inspiration on such a kitchen, look no further than this beauty. Once a cramped, closed-in space that the homeowners hated to use, it is now photo-worthy and practical for their small family.



This kitchen combines function, flow and style,  
making it the perfect space!

"We reconfigured the kitchen for a better flow," explains Derek Van Mol of Van Mol Restoration, and based on the tasks completed, it was no small job. A wall separating the kitchen from a dining area was removed and the layout redesigned. Also, the sink was moved to the back wall, plumbing and electrical were rerouted, an island was built, the floors were redone, under-cabinet and recessed can lighting was added to brighten the space, new cabinets were installed, appliances were updated, storage was added, and thoughtful design features were incorporated. It is these renovations that allow this small kitchen to make a big impact, but the challenge with a small space is fitting everything in, Derek reminds us. After making room for the necessities

(appliances), Derek focused on storage. A built-in pantry and “catch-all” countertop were added to the right side of the room, and both offer storage space. The client’s main requests were function, flow, storage and usability — and with thoughtful consideration, that is what Derek delivered.

Following the above recipe, style is as important an ingredient as function and flow, so once the layout of the space was decided upon, Derek focused on the design style. “Doing the actual work is rewarding, but the design part — picking the materials and colors — is the fun part for me,” he shares. Materials were mixed in an artful way to incorporate current trends while creating a timeless look. Case in point, the marble-esque porcelain backsplash and exposed brick wall. “The look is clean and modern, but the exposed brick gives it a bit of age,” Derek says. While the brick adds a rustic element, the tiling offers sophistication.



During renovations, the brick wall was uncovered. Derek was thrilled at the chance to leave it exposed and showcase the brick as part of the design. One of his favorite spots in the space is this vignette that includes the sink, glass-front cabinets, exposed brick and porcelain tile backsplash.

With the cabinets, Derek was able to think outside the box but still play it safe by keeping the classic all-white look up top and introducing color below. The Hanstone quartz countertops and

upper cabinets give nod to the everlasting all-white trend, but the painted lower cabinets introduce a dash of color without steering away from a neutral color palette. We particularly love how the grey of the cabinets and the island marry so nicely with the grey undertones of the tiles.

Additionally, Derek has noticed an uptick in shaker-style cabinetry. “The shaker-style cabinets are on trend and will continue to be because they are lasting,” he explains. “The look is clean and modern, simple but very functional.” We agree.



White materials brighten any space and create a modern feel. Derek used crisp colors and clean lines to enhance the modern design but made it timeless by incorporating additional colors and materials. It is possible to go with current trends without having a space that is *overly* trendy.



The Shaker-style cabinets are a lasting trend, according to Derek. The crown moulding on the cabinets is a classic touch and ties in with the crown moulding that frames the room. Under-cabinet lighting was Derek’s solution for the lack of light in the space, and this — combined with the backsplash that runs to the top of the cabinets — creates an air of sophistication.





This corner perfectly showcases the oak floors, painted lower cabinets, quartz countertops, porcelain backsplash, Shaker-style cabinets and updated appliances. These all come together to create clean lines and favorable contrast.

No matter how you mix and match the ingredients, it is style, function and flow that come together to create the perfect kitchen. Thank you to Derek Van Mol of Van Mol Restoration for letting us use this kitchen as an example of how to create such a dreamy space.

*Thank you to Shannon Fontaine for the lovely photos!*

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