

2005 WBA Remodeling Awards

Project Category:
Kitchen Over \$40K

“Country Comfort”



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INC.



Several renditions of this kitchen remodeling had been explored in the last decade before a decision was finally made. Earlier plans included an addition to the home for kitchen, dining and sunroom space, and several variations of plans were created to work on the kitchen within the existing footprint of the home.

The ultimate decision was to work within the building footprint but to remove the wall separating the dining area from the kitchen. This allowed an open plan, island, and created a semi-formal space that fits the client's lifestyle. Most of the dining area is now used as a sitting sunroom, while a small dining table is placed between there and the living room.

The new kitchen has a unique combination of stained and painted maple cabinetry. The glazed and painted upper cabinets provide a light feeling of openness, while the stained crown moulding and light moulding define horizontal lines in the room. Traditional birch flooring in two widths provides a contrast to the maple cabinetry, and the colors pull out the intricacies of the granite counter tops.



Before: The original cabinets and counter tops were 40 years old.

After evaluating the previous addition and kitchen renditions, the Remodelor™ had replaced most of the windows and doors in the home, so the trusting relationship for this project had already been established.

Leadership and reassurance were important to the clients, as well as reconciling desires of the husband and wife. While the wife was very interested in using painted cabinetry throughout the entire kitchen, the husband did not want to be reminded of the cheap painted cabinetry of the home where he grew up. We met the needs of both clients with the combination of high quality stained base cabinetry and painted upper



Since removing the wall between the kitchen and dining room, light streams into the entire area. The bearing wall remains as a sculptural backdrop for one of the owner's furniture pieces, contrasting with the painted cabinetry on the kitchen side of the wall.



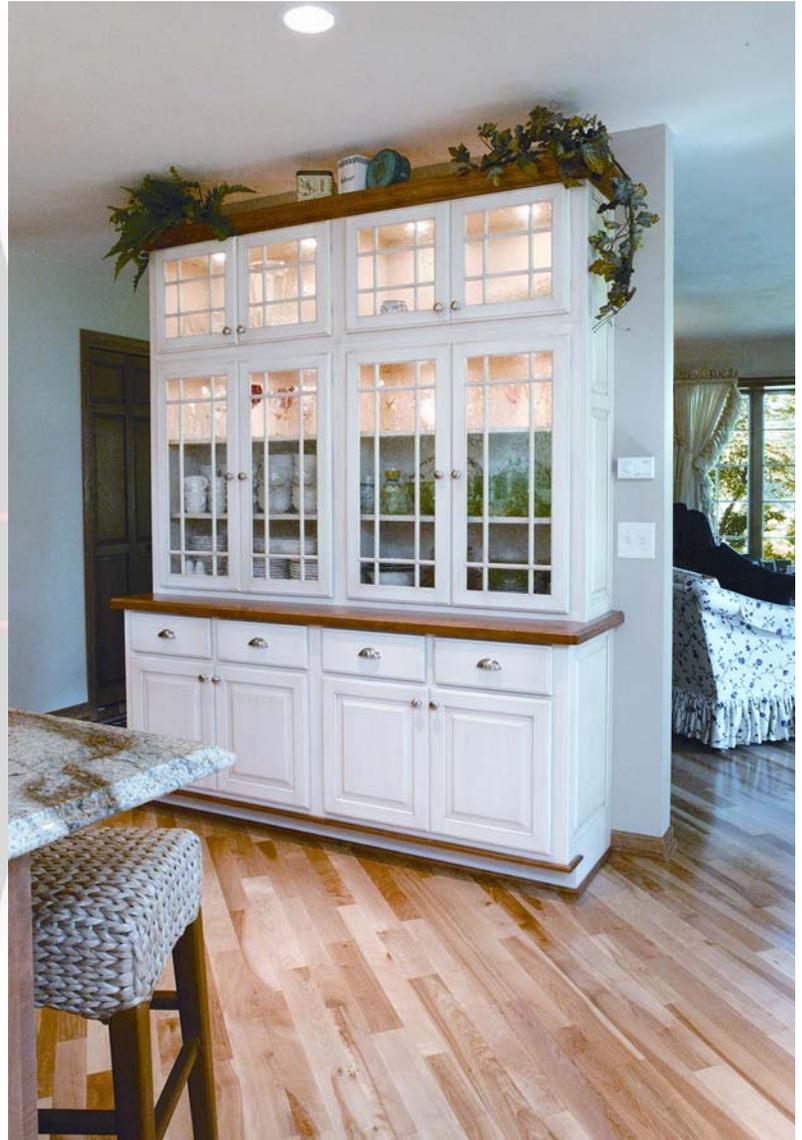
Before: A wall full of cabinets separated the kitchen from the dining room.



A small horizontal valance with crown moulding continues across the kitchen windows, connecting mouldings to the two adjacent cabinets. This allowed the rope up-lighting to continue and successfully defines the space above the window & cabinetry as an independent layer & space.

A custom hutch was created from semi-custom cabinetry. Installation of the contrasting stained crown moulding, wood top, and use of light cove moulding at the toe kick provides strong horizontal lines to contrast with the vertically-oriented cabinet doors. These strong lines also tie in with the crown and custom light valance on the other side of the kitchen.

The project continued into other areas of the home. The flooring on the main level of this tri-level home was removed and the wood installed throughout. Interior doors, casing and baseboard were replaced in the lower level to match the new windows and window casing we installed several years earlier, while the client had new flooring installed in several of those rooms.



While removing the wall separating the dining room and the kitchen, this bearing wall was left intact; a concealed header was installed in the attic at the left opening to the foyer.



Before: A blank wall separated the kitchen and dining room. With only one window, the kitchen area was dark.



Before: The wall separating the dining area and kitchen created small, secluded rooms.



Final Assessment & Results:

The clients are extremely happy with their new kitchen because removal of the wall has revolutionized their use of the home. They report that they regularly use the sitting area for quiet and relaxed conversations, in order to divert themselves from the television. The work areas are comfortable and the work triangle is compact yet provides all the work space necessary.



The former dining room is now used as a sunroom sitting area for quiet time away from the television.

