

Before and After



From Common to Classy

A standard kitchen becomes a modern space with distinction

AN ENGINEER FROM SWITZERLAND AND HIS CHOREOGRAPHER WIFE moved into the San Diego suburbs to focus more on their children and their education. They were accustomed to a cultured European style, but they instead found themselves in a traditional builder-grade home that did not cater to their love of hosting, cooking together or modern design.

"Surrounded by similar tract homes, they wanted to dramatically change their living space and transform its standard interior while retaining its sense of place in the neighborhood," said designer Tatiana Machado-Rosas of San Diego-based Jackson Design and Remodeling. "They were looking for a spacious, breezy and uncluttered design with good flow, organized storage and a European sense of style."

A SUNNY VIEW

Located in California, this kitchen had the potential to be bright and cheery. The design team brought this to fruition by removing a wall between the kitchen and dining room and raising the ceiling as much as possible. A small amount of square footage was also added in the dining room and near the kitchen's bay window, and several new windows were installed.



TOP The unusual shape of the island was custom designed to accommodate frequent entertaining and the wife's dance practice.

ABOVE The original kitchen was small and cramped, with just one way in and one way out.

BY ERINN LOUCKS



"The new picture windows, where the old bay window was removed and the wall was pushed out, dramatically increase natural light and bring the beauty of the backyard into the kitchen," said Machado-Rosas, explaining that the picture windows only have one pane of glass so as not to disrupt the view of the pool and palm trees.

UNIFYING AND DEFINING THE OPEN LAYOUT

Now visually connected to the dining room, the kitchen was on its way to being the ideal place to host. However, the room did not have much wall space to store everything the family needed to entertain together.

Using 2020 Design, Machado-Rosas arranged a layout with extra-tall cabinets to both increase storage and distinguish the kitchen from the living and dining rooms in the open plan.

"Wrapping the tall cabinetry around the corners of the kitchen creatively adds distinction to the design while both unifying the entire space and defining the different areas," she said.

ROOM TO DANCE

Planning the layout of each of these areas was particularly important to the wife of the household, who often practices her choreography at home before she teaches dance class. She needed room to move around with ease in her kitchen.

Along with taking down walls, Machado-Rosas accommodated the wife's need by designing the island in a pentagon-like shape, or a rectangle with one side appearing to have been left out. This allows for more room to move between the island and the breakfast nook – both facilitating better traffic flow and providing room to dance.

“Cutting off” a corner of the island created space while also establishing an interesting design feature,” said the designer, adding that this “cutoff” was the perfect spot for decorative open shelving.



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ABOVE The black stainless steel KitchenAid refrigerator was one of the first to be installed in that new and trending finish in San Diego.

BELOW The lighting was selected to bring warmth to the minimalist space with a slightly rustic feel and a pop of color.

INSPIRATIONS FROM CHILDHOOD

Along with highlighting the view, the design was inspired by the husband's memory of his childhood home in Switzerland – a 400-year-old house that had been updated with mid-century modern elements. The tumbled travertine subway tile backsplash evokes the look of natural stone walls, and the quarter-sawn oak that makes up the island cabinetry recalls a more modern home like the one in which the client grew up.

“The overall design was carefully planned as very organized with simple, horizontal lines,” said Machado-Rosas, who used AutoCAD for comprehensive construction drawings.

Painting the walls and ceiling the same color also adds to the minimalist, mid-century modern look of the design while enhancing the contrasting bright green of the backyard. High-pressure laminate cabinetry – an extraordinary type of material – complements the simple profile, and dark gray quartz countertops contrast the cabinets and bring in a hint of reflective sheen.

“It was essential to the overall design to keep the cabinetry choices minimal in feel while contrasting with dark and light for balance,” said the designer, referring to the difference among the cabinetry, countertops and wood island. “Each material and element was carefully selected to harmonize with a clean, modern design.”



SOURCES

DESIGNER: Tatiana Machado-Rosas, Jackson Design and Remodeling
PHOTOGRAPHER: Jackson Design and Remodeling

CABINETRY: DeWils Custom Cabinetry;
CABINETRY HARDWARE: Manzoni; **COUNTERTOP:** Cosentino; **FAUCET:** Grohe; **LIGHTING:** Niche Modern; **OVEN:** Wolf; **REFRIGERATOR:** KitchenAid; **SINK:** Kohler;
TILE: San Diego Marble and Tile