

KITCHEN REDESIGNERS PUT A PREMIUM ON MAKING STORAGE SPACE ACCESSIBLE AND USABLE

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STORAGE CENTRAL

Joan and Paul Hynes of Del Mar have two children, Chris, 12, and Lauren, 10, and a kitchen that's now storage central after a remodel by Janine Thierry Brown of Janine Brown Interiors in San Diego.

On one wall alone, reconfigured during the remodel, there are now 11 natural maple cabinets and drawers; a floor-to-head-high pantry; open shelves to display plants and Joan's Humpty Dumpty cookie jar; a microwave; the refrigerator; double ovens; and a counter for the toaster oven, phone and TV.

Brown said, "I wanted to utilize some of the design aspects put in place before the remodel began, such as furniture, window treatments and artwork. The contemporary style of the home's decor is alive with color contrasts. I wanted to blend the new kitchen with the existing materials."

Joan Hynes added, "I wanted something functional but that was still nice to look at."

A few years before, Brown had redone the Hynes' family room, separated from the kitchen by a bank of cabinets low enough to sit on, and the styles of the two rooms were disparate.

As in many kitchens, there were cabinets that were so deep that things got lost in the back, and an island in the middle of the floor that was more of an obstacle than a help.

"The kids wanted to be able to sit on the stools at the island, and that just wasn't possible before," Hynes said.

Brown started by gutting the north wall and installing the 11 cabinets and drawers around the oven and refrigerator. Many of the cabinets now have pullout drawers, and Hynes' baking pans are in a drawer under the double oven. The pantry has slide-out trays so items in the back are as reachable as those in the front.

The east wall has cabinets over the cooktop, while below are pullout cutting boards, a drawer for utensils, and another drawer that keeps Hynes' spices neatly separated and ready to use. Pots and pans are stored in a deep drawer under the cooktop.



A deep corner cabinet ñ the black hole of the kitchen ñ now has a lazy susan inside so things don't get lost in the nether reaches.

The dishwasher is on the south wall under windows that overlook the back yard. Adjacent are pullout trays that hold trash and recycling bins. A large glass-fronted cabinet displays decorative soup tureens and other dishes, before the wall ends in sliding French doors.

The island is slightly bigger than it was before, and it's been raised six inches on legs, making it seem to float. Joan Hynes said it now fools the eye into thinking there's more space.

There are stools under one edge where the Hynes children sit to eat breakfast. The sides are lined with cabinets that are actually pullout drawers. A pendant light of colorful Murano glass is suspended over the island and adds sophistication.

Where the kitchen opens into the family room, the low bank of cabinets was raised to add storage space for the children's art and school supplies, next to the kitchen table where they do homework. The cabinets, which also hold Hynes' cookbooks, are topped with black granite to match the kitchen countertops and echo black accents in the family room.

Brown's decorative piece de resistance is a long, narrow glass-fronted cabinet that is suspended from the ceiling on two black poles above the bank of cabinets between the kitchen and family room. "Janine hung that cabinet there just for my colorful decorative dishes and pitchers," Hynes said.

Brown added the same brightly colored window valences used in the family room to the kitchen windows. The abstract floral print jolted with purple, yellow and hot pink ties the two rooms together.

The room's new style is "contemporary, but not modern," Brown said. "The cabinet door style is Shaker, and Joan has some traditional pieces, but also Asian, modern and art deco, so I'd really have to describe the kitchen as eclectic.

"The kitchen as well as the rest of the house is casual and full of color. It's a fun, comfortable home well used by family and friends."

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