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FOR Home in Springfield

This kitchen had a single door to the family room—a squeeze for normal traffic—and an alcove to provide valuable space. The homeowners wanted to create an opening between the two rooms, but still be able to close it off when guests stayed in the family room. They envisioned a huge, sliding barn door to serve the purpose.

“This was a challenge we had never encountered before,” says Sonny Nazemian, president and CEO of Michael Nash. “But we researched it and decided it was worth the effort.”

As the owners also wanted the kitchen to be functional, a load-bearing wall was moved 18 inches deep into the family room. To hang the heavy barn door, the wall was reinforced and made into one straight line. The door is suspended by wheels that moved across a track above the doorway.

To create the French-country kitchen the homeowners wanted, beadboard was installed on the walls along with dark granite countertops, decorative backsplash tiles, wood floors and angled lower cabinets. The result is now eye-catching and efficient, and prominently features a distinctive door that not only functions but also serves as an interesting conversation piece.

“People today want more open kitchens,” says Nazemian. “Lighter, airier and accessible from all parts of the house.”