



## INTERIOR DESIGN

# Let There Be Light!

A BRIGHT KITCHEN WITH A TOUCH OF ELEGANCE | BY TROY BLEWETT

*“The homeowner told me that she loves cooking for guests, so having professional-grade appliances was very important to her.”*

—Sonny Nazemian

**B**uilt in the mid-1980s, this home’s original kitchen was dark and dysfunctional. For a homeowner who loved to entertain, its dark cabinets, poor lighting, misplaced island and dated appliances were a non-starter. Additionally, a wallpaper border dated the space, a peninsula separated the kitchen from the breakfast area, and both spaces had different flooring with mismatched stain tones.

For its remodel, the homeowner turned to Michael Nash Design Build & Homes, a full-service remodeling firm in Fairfax to handle design, demolition, construction, selection of materials and finish carpentry.

### PLANNING THE REMODEL

“Following our initial meeting with the homeowner, we could see the existing space had potential to be the showplace kitchen she desired,” says Sonny Nazemian, president of Michael Nash. “As soon as we removed the short wall cabinetry and big bulkheads, we quickly visualized a renovation plan to transform and brighten the kitchen.”

The new design included brightening the room, adding more storage, improving the work space, upgrading the appliances and creating a focal point for the room.



*Above: The homeowner says that whenever she has people over they end up gathering in the kitchen. "The space has become the hub of activity in her home," Nazemian says.*

*Right: Remodel affords more counter workspace and storage.*

*Opposite: The new design includes brightening the room, adding more storage, improving the work space, upgrading the appliances and creating a focal point for the room.*



## A NEW KITCHEN

The first step in the project was to lighten the kitchen by introducing upscale, inset white cabinetry with glass doors and large molding. Stacked glass-faced upper cabinetry replaced the old bulkhead and wallpaper border. In so doing, the room added additional storage while gaining a touch of elegance.

The next step was to remove the original island and replace it with a larger structure. Once again, Michael Nash replaced the original dark cabinetry with white cabinets topped with exotic, light-colored marble that beautifully complimented the cabinetry. The newer, larger island—which now serves as the hub of the kitchen—includes a glass display cabinet.

The island's marble countertop continues around the perimeter of the kitchen with a stone backsplash in a harmonizing color installed behind it, running from the countertop to the upper cabinets. A large under-the-counter sink is nestled beneath a large bay window, allowing natural light to pour into the space.

"Marble countertop surfaces are timeless, their characteristic veining providing an elegant, refined look," Nazemian says. "In this application, the glossy, shiny marble surface created an excellent contrast



with the wood cabinets. Additionally, marble is resistant to heat, cracks, scratches and burns,” he adds.

The opposite wall touts a commercial-style refrigerator/freezer with matching white cabinet inserts. A serving counter topped with glass display cabinets separates a stacked oven.

Finally, a large professional stove with a custom-built wooden hood creates a focal point for the entire space. Majestically centered above the range and its stone backsplash, it occupies most of the wall and looks over the rest of the kitchen.

“The homeowner told me that she loves cooking for guests,” Nazemian recalls, “so having professional-grade appliances was very important to her. She complimented our team on creating a fantastic work area that makes meal preparation so much more efficient.”

The original peninsula that separated the kitchen from the breakfast area was removed, significantly opening the space. A previously unused wall now features a custom-built hutch for displaying the homeowner’s priceless china.

A French door with a glass transom leading to the mudroom provides another source of natural light, as do French patio doors in the breakfast area. Additional lighting comes from beautiful hanging pendants and strategically positioned recessed lights.

Finally, the hardwood floor was made uniform by adding new flooring and refinishing other areas. It now runs throughout the kitchen, breakfast area and into the home’s family room.





*Above: By introducing upscale, inset white cabinetry with glass doors and stacked glass-faced upper cabinetry, the room added additional storage while gaining a touch of elegance.*

*Right: The newer, larger island—which now serves as the hub of the kitchen—includes extra storage space as well as a glass display cabinet.*

*Opposite, top: Marble countertop surfaces are timeless, their characteristic veining providing an elegant, refined look. Here the glossy, shiny marble surface creates an excellent contrast with the wood cabinets; and the view into the remodeled kitchen from the breakfast nook.*



## STUNNING RESULTS

“When you love to entertain, you want a kitchen that makes an impression on your friends and neighbors,” Nazemian says. He recollects the homeowner saying that her guests frequently remark how much they like the island, the range hood and the white cabinetry. “I recall her saying that whenever she has people over, they end up gathering in the kitchen,” Nazemian says. “The space has become the hub of activity in the home.”

## PLANNING IS KEY

“The success of any renovation project depends on a few key factors,” Nazemian says. “A well thought-out plan, a detailed budget and excellent rapport with the client are all vital. All three were in place on this project. The entire project, from design to demolition to construction, took just three months,” he says.

## SELECTING THE RIGHT FIRM

For homeowners considering a remodel, Nazemian recommends they select a firm that has experience doing the type of work they want done. As an example, Michael Nash had extensive experience remodeling gourmet kitchens, making them the perfect firm to handle this project.

Whether you’re interested in a custom home, an addition or extension, a remodeled kitchen or bathroom, a new interior or exterior, an experienced remodeling firm can make your dreams come true. É