



WHAT THEY WANTED:

The Udofias first remodeled their kitchen just seven years ago, and though it looked nice, it still wasn't meeting

their needs because of its small size. So, when the couple decided to modify their 1920s home with a three-story addition, an expanded kitchen was part of the design.

"We were too conservative on our first approach," says Traci. "It was beautiful but not user-friendly." This time around, the couple wanted to make sure there was plenty of room for several cooks to maneuver as well as space to gather as a family or entertain guests. They also wanted a clean, elegant look that merged their diverse tastes: his tendency toward the light-filled simplicity of Scandinavian style, and her preference for warm tones and cozy spaces.

HOW THEY ACHIEVED IT:

The old kitchen was completely removed to make way for the addition, which included a great room. "Our goal was a nice, clean transitional style," says Stephanie Bryant, the Normandy designer

who worked with the family on their project. The centerpiece is a 10-foot center island that seats four. The room also includes a dining area with a table and chairs and built-in window seats. All the seating is a plus, considering the former kitchen didn't have any.

The former cabinets were repurposed for the new basement's bar area and were replaced by custom maple cabinets with a dark stain. A lighter finish on the island and much of the trim brightens things up. The cream and chocolate tones in the granite countertops and tile backsplash tie the two finishes together.

The new cabinets are packed with organization, including tray storage, pantry pullouts, a file cabinet and, what Traci calls, "little extra touches that make my life easier."

"For us, it's an amazing kitchen," enthuses Traci. "Our two boys love to cook, my mother and mother-in-law love to cook, so when people come and visit, they can just start cooking. It becomes a party immediately."

Even the boys appreciate it. Ten-year-old Gabe made the kitchen the focus of a social studies report last fall in which he wrote, "Our kitchen is important because it is where I do most of my homework, help prepare dinners and entertain my friends with great after school snacks."