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Distinctive Spaces

BY ELIZABETH ERVIN

Before & After



This Weeks' Elimination Challenge: **Gut the Kitchen**

Desperation is often an impetus for change, this includes kitchens. For a family of five it was important for designer Rami Afifi, Allied ASID, (of Kitchens by Deane) to create a space that was functional and inviting to serve as the center of this family's busy home. Prior to renovations, the kitchen lacked many vital characteristics. The design aesthetic was dated as were all electronics and appliances. The layout was not practical for high traffic, de-

spite the large space, it could only accommodate one person cooking at a time.

Physically positioned at the center of the house, the family spends the majority of its time in the kitchen, therefore space planning was vital. To increase usable square footage, Afifi closed up one window on the far wall to expand the cooking area which added balance to the space. To compensate for the lost light, another window was added to the adjacent wall which also complimented the sink elevation.



Despite its large size, the old kitchen (left) was not practical for a family of five. Renovations by Kitchens by Deane not only updated the space, but improved flow for a family that enjoys entertaining.



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Considering that the kitchen services a large family that enjoys entertaining, Afifi equipped the room with two sinks, two ovens, an electric glass cook top, a wood hood and a television. Also, additional refrigeration was added for children's beverages and wine. Afifi designed all of the millwork in an off white finish with marble countertops and stained the island to coordinate with the dark floor. "We chose a dark stain on the floor because we felt that it would be more forgiving," says Afifi.

"The house and its furnishings are very eclectic, so bringing in a transitional kitchen with minimal design elements worked really well," explains Afifi. Complete functionality is reinforced by the construction of a message center and space allocation for a kitchen computer. Afifi attributes much of the success of the project to the family's keen design sense and their ability to address what elements needed to be changed. He also stressed that onsite surprises were minimized through careful planning and communication between the clients, tradesmen, engineers, and field supervisors.

Within seven months, the kitchen's complete transformation gave this New Canaan family a space that satisfied each of their demands. Through quick decision making and smooth execution, Afifi gave this family function.

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