

Opening Horizons for Kitchen and Bath

The trend to open-concept gives families more space in the rooms they use most. Making kitchens more spacious and functional is sometimes as simple as expanding into closets or tearing down an adjoining wall. *By Erica Thoits*

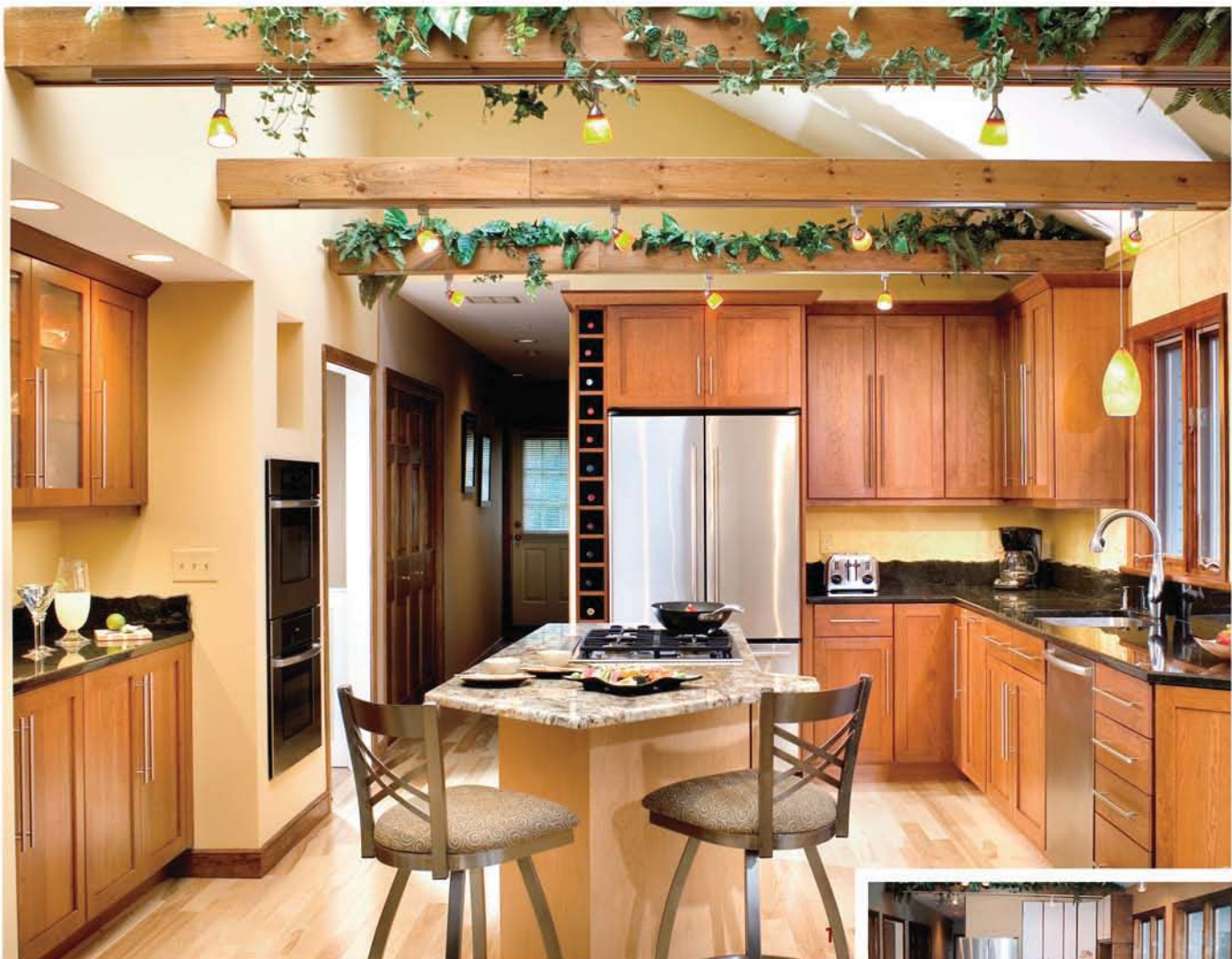


PHOTO BY RIXON PHOTOGRAPHY

This kitchen design by husband and wife team David and Susan Crupi of Hollis used minimal structural changes, but the result was a more open-looking and useable kitchen.

Before: The outdated cabinets were replaced with cherry, while the floors in the kitchen and adjoining family room are made of ash. A 24-inch-deep closet space to the left was replaced with a built-in server and cabinets above.



YOUR Home

There's nothing more frustrating than outgrowing your space — bumping into each other in the kitchen, cramming the whole family in the living room or feeling claustrophobic in your tiny shower. All are problems that can be alleviated by incorporating open concept rooms into your home.

Husband and wife team David and Susan Crupi of Hollis helped one family fall in love with their kitchen all over again by designing an open space that not only gave them a more functional room, but added elegant design elements as well — all with minimal structural changes. The homeowners didn't want to bump out the kitchen or move the mechanics around in order to save their budget for other kitchen improvements.

With the removal of a 24-inch-deep closet space on the left side of the kitchen, enough room was gained to not only build in a server, but to add seating on the end of the island — something the clients had hoped for, but didn't think was possible.

"That's the fun of what we do," says Crupi. "Giving people what they want." At the beginning of each new project she likes to ask the clients to fill out a wish list. On this particular wish list was seating at the end of the island. With the pantry closet gone, the seating wouldn't interfere with traffic around the island. By extending and angling the end, two people can comfortably and safely sit without ending up too near the stove.

Though the Crupis were somewhat limited in structural changes, they still made a huge number of improvements that help give the kitchen a spacious feeling. The old linoleum floor was replaced with much lighter ash flooring that was extended into the adjoining living room, making the rooms feel more connected and therefore more open.

The Crupis were not able to add more physical space to the kitchen. Instead,

they used dark and light colors to make the room appear much larger than it is. Black granite countertops and dark cherry cabinets were added to create the impression of a larger room. With darker colors on the perimeter and lighter materials in the center (maple cabinets on the island and a lighter granite top with black flecks to tie it all in), the room grows visually. Glass doors on some of the cabinets, recessed and under-cabinet lighting also help the room appear more spacious.

Double Bosch ovens were floated in sheet rock. This saved money because they didn't need to buy more cherry cabinetry. A square alcove was built in the wall above the ovens for visual interest, it also adds a bit of depth to the room. The oven was removed from below the cooktop to add a much-needed downdraft and drawers for pots and pans.

Finally, the cherry cabinets came from Custom Wood Products, which is one of the few certified in the materials and manufacturing process of cabinets as a "green" company.

David R. Crupi, LLC: 465-7003

