



HOMEWORK
DESIGN STUDIO

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Your Kitchen... Don't Renovate. Reinvent.

It's the hub of activity, the place in your house where everyone seems to gather. No wonder the kitchen is the most redone room in the home.

We live in our kitchens, so we want them to be rooms we enjoy. The kitchen is ripe for reinvention for another reason; remodelling a kitchen is more expensive than any

other home improvement project. Wouldn't it be great to work with what you have and add new features to create a fresh look - without major investment. That's just what HomeWork Design Studio did with the kitchen featured on this page. It was a true remodelling project, and the budget was modest by kitchen standards, but the transformation was dramatic just the same.

The major cost in a kitchen is the cabinetry, so why not keep the bones of it if you can? Simply replace or refinish the doors and drawer faces. If the carcass is in good shape and provides adequate storage and is still working as far as the layout, then no need to demolish it - just give it back its dignity.

Use your floor and your ceiling as part of your scheme, balance them out with contrast and let them work in conjunction with the kitchen to create an overall harmonious space. In this kitchen, we kept the high open-rafters in a dark stain while doing the floors in large neutral porcelain tiles - then played the kitchen colours off of those by doing the cabinetry white and crisp to pop, except for the island which we did in the same tones of the ceiling to ground the space and build on the colour scheme.

The vision of the project was to provide a bright, clean and very functional kitchen with lots of preparation counter space, appropriate lighting for both the counters and the overall space, without losing the essence of the traditional vein of the existing kitchen and to keep within the design and style of the overall home.

Instead of the painted walls, a new glass and stone mosaic tile backsplash filled the wall spaces of the kitchen. This accented the ceiling heights and brought much gleam and sparkle to the space - giving an overall more luxurious feel.

The stainless steel appliances were a good choice in this kitchen to again add contrast and play off the natural tones of the counters and backsplash, which were then further highlighted by the stainless steel handles of the cabinets. Though nearly every removable element of the kitchen was replaced; i.e.; the appliances, doors, sink, handles, backsplash, lighting - it was really more of a reinvention than a renovation as the cabinets themselves were only refinished and not removed, the spatial plan stayed the same which meant we did not have to play with electrical or plumbing - all big cost savers in any renovation.

In the end, the kitchen was given a new lease on life and remained true to the home's natural graces. This gave the homeowners a place they could continue to enjoy and live in, without breaking the bank.

