



Eliminating cabinets above the peninsula changed the feel of Heather and Todd Duval's kitchen, opening it to backyard views.



# updating modern

An '80s kitchen sheds its tired persona for a sleek and streamlined image.

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**the vision** was there. But Todd and Heather Duval still were trapped in their dated 1980s kitchen in upstate New York. “We were scared to make a decision,” Heather says, “especially since it was one that was such a big investment.”

Along came interior designer Elizabeth Tanny to steer the couple through smart design choices and help them realize their dream for a sophisticated and family-friendly space.

Tanny helped the couple confront the problems in the 13×25-foot kitchen: cabinet doors in disrepair, worn-out laminate flooring, outdated appliances, and view-blocking cabinets above the peninsula. She divided the kitchen into zones for cooking, cleanup, prep, casual dining, and entertaining.

Upper cabinets over the peninsula were removed to visually join the dining and cooking zones. Then the sink and dishwasher were moved to the peninsula to take advantage of the view out the large bank of windows in the eating area. In the cooking zone, the soffit was removed to make room for ceiling-height cabinets, increasing the room’s storage capabilities.

To stretch the budget, Tanny selected stock cabinetry stained chocolate brown. Light green granite countertops add an earthy element and contrast with the dark cabinetry. Green glass subway tiles coordinate with the countertops.

The laminate flooring was replaced with 2¼-inch-wide red oak planks. A new breakfast bar below a large window adds a

spot for coffee and reading the paper. Built-in open shelves flank the area and provide attractive display space.

The final challenge was incorporating a station for entertaining. Out went the old pantry with bifold doors and shelves and in went a sleek bar area, complete with beverage cooler and glass-front cabinet doors to spotlight glassware. To handle dinner parties and family dining, the Duvals opted for a kidproof dining table that extends to seat eight. Overhead, a modern ceiling-mount light fixture casts soft light without blocking the view to the outdoors.

Heather and Todd got everything they wanted in their newly remodeled kitchen. “I have heard from friends so many times that if they could do their renovation again, they would have made different decisions. For us, choosing the right designer to help us was well worth the cost,” Heather says. “Not a day goes by that I don’t look around and think, *Wow, I can’t believe this is my kitchen!*”

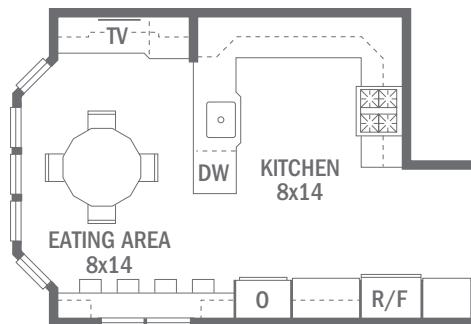
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**ABOVE LEFT: A pull-down faucet and single-bowl stainless-steel sink were found online. A filtered-water unit adds convenience. ABOVE: Removing the soffit and running the cabinetry to the ceiling adds a sleek look and packs in extra storage.**



THIS PHOTO: A cabinet-depth refrigerator along with the built-in microwave and wall oven give the kitchen a polished, upscale look.

## about this makeover



Designer Elizabeth Tanny moved the sink and dishwasher to the peninsula. She created an entertaining zone with upper and lower cabinets, beverage center, and flat-screen TV where the closet pantry previously existed.



**ABOVE:** Removing pantry shelving behind dated bifold doors made room for new glass-front cabinetry, drawers, and a beverage cooler in an entertaining zone. **OPPOSITE:** Tanny recommended a cost-saving breakfast bar for additional seating, which suits the Duval family's everyday lifestyle. The granite is the same as on the countertops and is a nice contrast with the metal barstools.

## budget

### Appliances

Beverage refrigerator	900
Microwave	275
Range	1,480
Refrigerator	1,600
Vent hood	600
Wall oven	1,300

### Cabinetry

Cabinets	13,500
Hardware	250

### Plumbing

Faucet	400
Sink	410

### Surfaces

Backsplash	800
Countertop	6,500

### Miscellaneous

Pendant lights	680
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**Total** **\$28,695**

*Costs do not include labor unless noted.*





Allow about 30 inches for each barstool and a 12- to 18-inch overhang at a breakfast bar for knee space.