

NARI MINNESOTA - 2025 RotY AWARDS

PROJECT: LUMI CATEGORY: RESIDENTIAL KITCHEN \$150,000-200,000



Client Objectives

building a forever home

Our homeowners started with a classic 90s floor plan — a kitchen set between a formal dining room on one side and a sunken living room on the other. With two young kids, this was their forever home. Set in a quiet neighborhood backing up to woods and a pond, their goal was to create a more open layout that better reflected their style and their family's needs. Included in their list of objectives was:

- Open up the space for better flow and use for their family of four
- Reset to a clean, modern minimalistic style and warm natural aesthetic that would brighten up the main floor and optimize views to the beautiful backyard
- Use of high-quality craftsmanship materials befitting of their intention for this to be their forever home
- Ample counterspace and storage
- Remove all traces of the dated honey oak



Client Frustrations

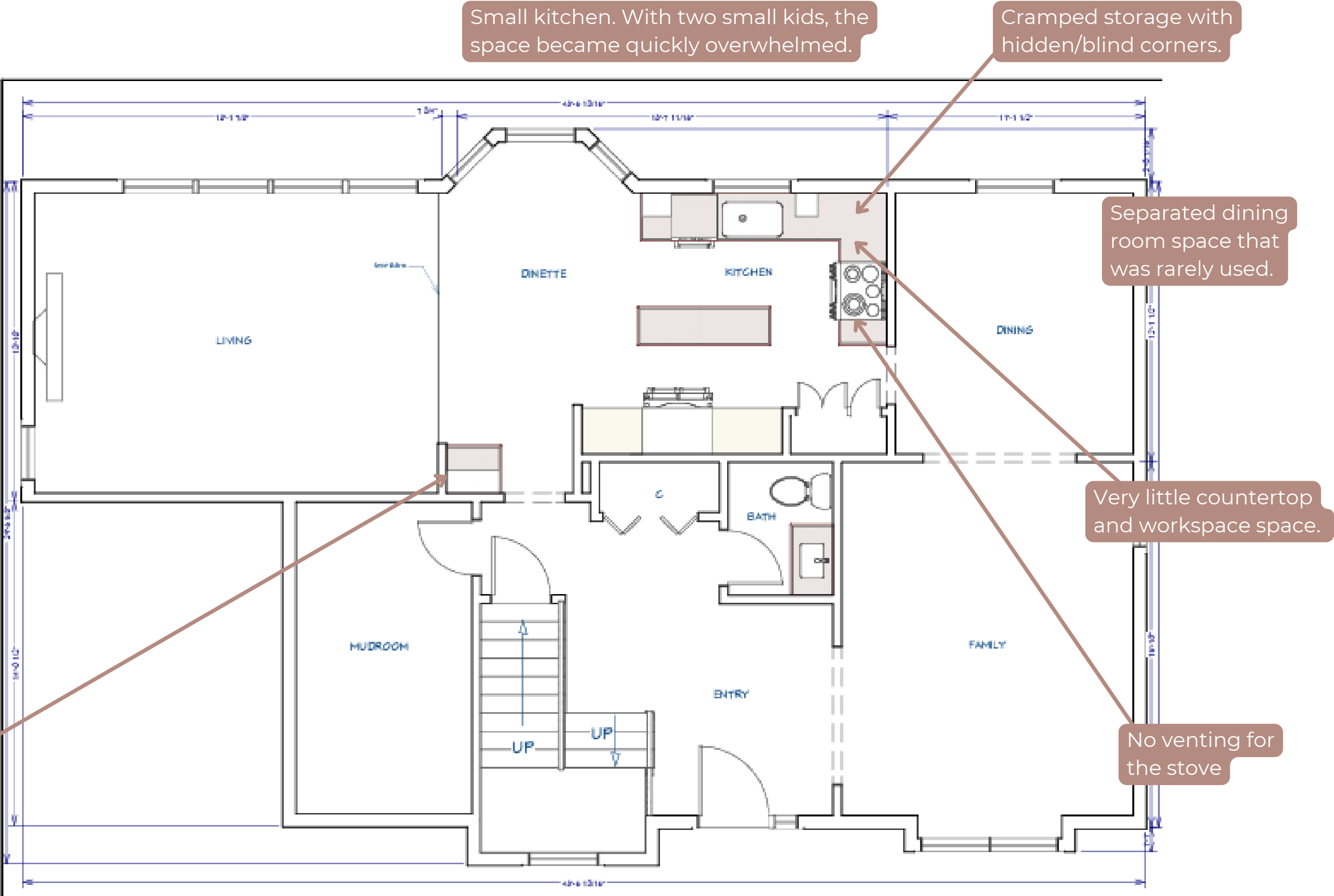
before plan

The existing layout was typical of homes built in the 90s with a separate dining room area and a small cramped kitchen.

A general overall dated feel that did not match their style.

EXISTING FLOOR PLAN
3/16" = 1'

A sunken living room floor and two awkward partial walls that enhanced the feel of a the choppy layout



Client Wishes

updated feel and function



An appliance garage and beverage center were on the wish list of desired features.

They wanted a continuous run of cabinetry & countertops along the back wall and were willing to make window and design decisions to accommodate that.



The dining room was seldom used. Their desire for a larger kitchen space led the decision to incorporate it into the remodeled kitchen design.



The homeowners really disliked the overall choppy feel created by several features including these partial walls and a step down between the kitchen and living room. They desired a more open and bright layout.



Looking for a more modern, clean aesthetic, they wished to replace their existing white windows with black.

Avid home chefs, they wanted to replace the electric stove with a gas stove

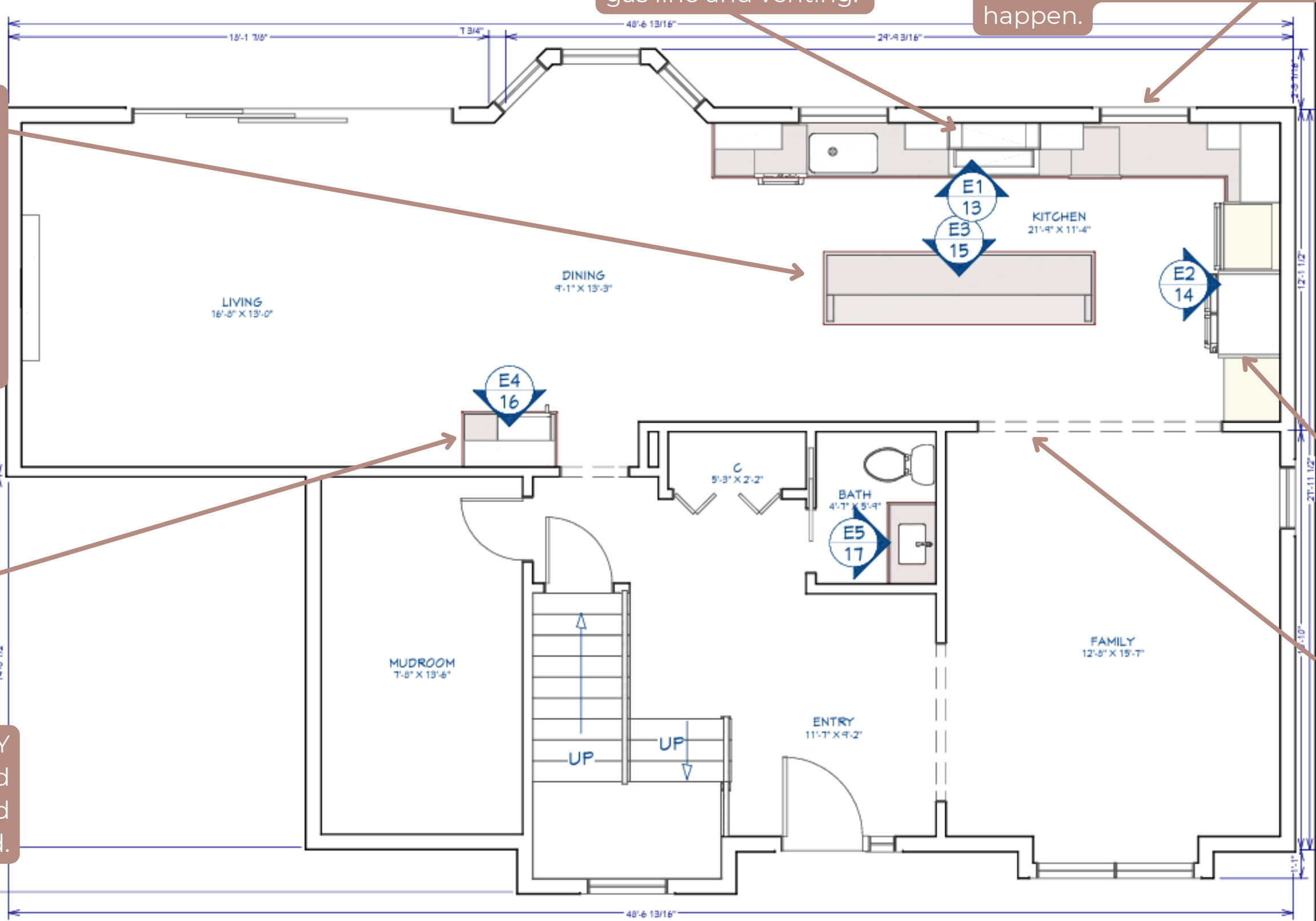


They wanted as big an island as possible with seating to create a gathering space.

Challenges Addressed

after plan

EXISTING FLOOR PLAN
3/16" = 1'



The narrow layout made it challenging to fulfill their wish for a large island with seating. We fulfilled their wish using a shorter cabinet depth to accommodate the seating, closing in the ends of the island to make the island still fill the space.

Replacing the electric stove with a gas stove meant we needed to bring in a gas line and venting.

We installed a new window here and wanted to use the existing header to avoid additional framing and equal reveals around both windows and cabinets. Careful planning went into making this all happen.

They wanted double ovens and a separate cooktop and microwave. Thoughtful space planning to accommodate everything in a way that didn't feel cluttered was at front and center.

They wanted a full-depth, rather than counter-depth, fridge. Incorporating it so that it didn't stick out along this wall required careful planning.

Awkward desk station and partial walls removed, replaced with a beverage station.

We didn't know what was inside the wall separating the family room and kitchen. A jog in the wall, previously hidden by cabinetry, also needed to be addressed after demo began. Ultimately, we were able to widen the opening to approximately 9' (108") wide by adjusting the extra long cold air return vents.

There was a lot of DIY electrical work discovered along the way which needed to be addressed.

Functionality

let flow & function shine

At the homeowners' request, white cabinetry spans the back kitchen wall, paired with a 33" deep narrow island that maximizes prep space without overwhelming the room's footprint. Enlarged, symmetrical windows brighten the space and family-favorite extras—like double ovens, a tucked-away appliance garage, and a convenient beverage station—enhance everyday ease and entertaining.



Before



After

Functionality

ready for family life

Packed with requested features, including a beverage bar for thirsty kids and entertaining guests, an appliance garage to keep things out of sight, island seating for family and friends, double ovens, a gas cooktop and plenty of counter space for cooking and baking.



Functionality

storage and workspace aplenty

FUNCTION

A continuous wall of cabinetry and countertop remains minimally interrupted thanks to the undercounter microwave.



FUNCTION

The widened opening into the family room opens up the space for easy flow when entertaining or keeping an eye on kids while preparing dinner.



FUNCTION

A pantry and drawers along the length of the island ensure storage is never an issue.

Functionality

eliminating congestion

FUNCTION

Relocating the door made way for three new windows, eliminating what was a constant pinchpoint and source of congestion.



After



Before



Before

FUNCTION

The partial walls, a clutter attracting desk and steep down are gone, replaced with a beverage station suitable for entertaining and day to day family life.



After

Craftsmanship

designed to last a lifetime



CRAFTSMANSHIP

The beverage station, in matching cabinetry finishes and a newly reconfigured interior wall that looks purposefully designed, never revealing the surprise discovery of the jag in the wall.



Innovation

ready for family life



INNOVATION

The cabinetry was designed to seamlessly incorporate the full depth fridge and double ovens, thanks to a carefully planned transitions

INNOVATION

Breakfast seating tucks under the 10' long island. To accommodate flow, the island was designed to be only 33" deep with shorter cabinet depth.



INNOVATION

A hidden cabinet corner with appliance garage underneath makes the nearby window and double oven placement possible.



Aesthetics

modern minimalism

Per our homeowners' request, honey oak, a dark and dated floor and a general feeling of being cramped is gone. In its place is a clean, bright and modern design that invites in light and natural elements from the wooded pond behind their home resulting in an updated space that reflects their vision and goals for their forever home.



Before



After

Aesthetics

a delightful mix



Before

A mix of Sherwin Williams Snowbound White and Stained Red Birch Cabinetry adds depth and warmth while keeping the overall feeling light and open.

AESTHETICS



AESTHETICS
New knockdown ceiling throughout

AESTHETICS
Mixed metal finishes across the lighting and hardware create visual interest, each playing well together, and with the elements that surround it.

After

Aesthetics

infused with warmth and light

AESTHETICS

Soft neutral subway tile provides a subtle, elegant backdrop.



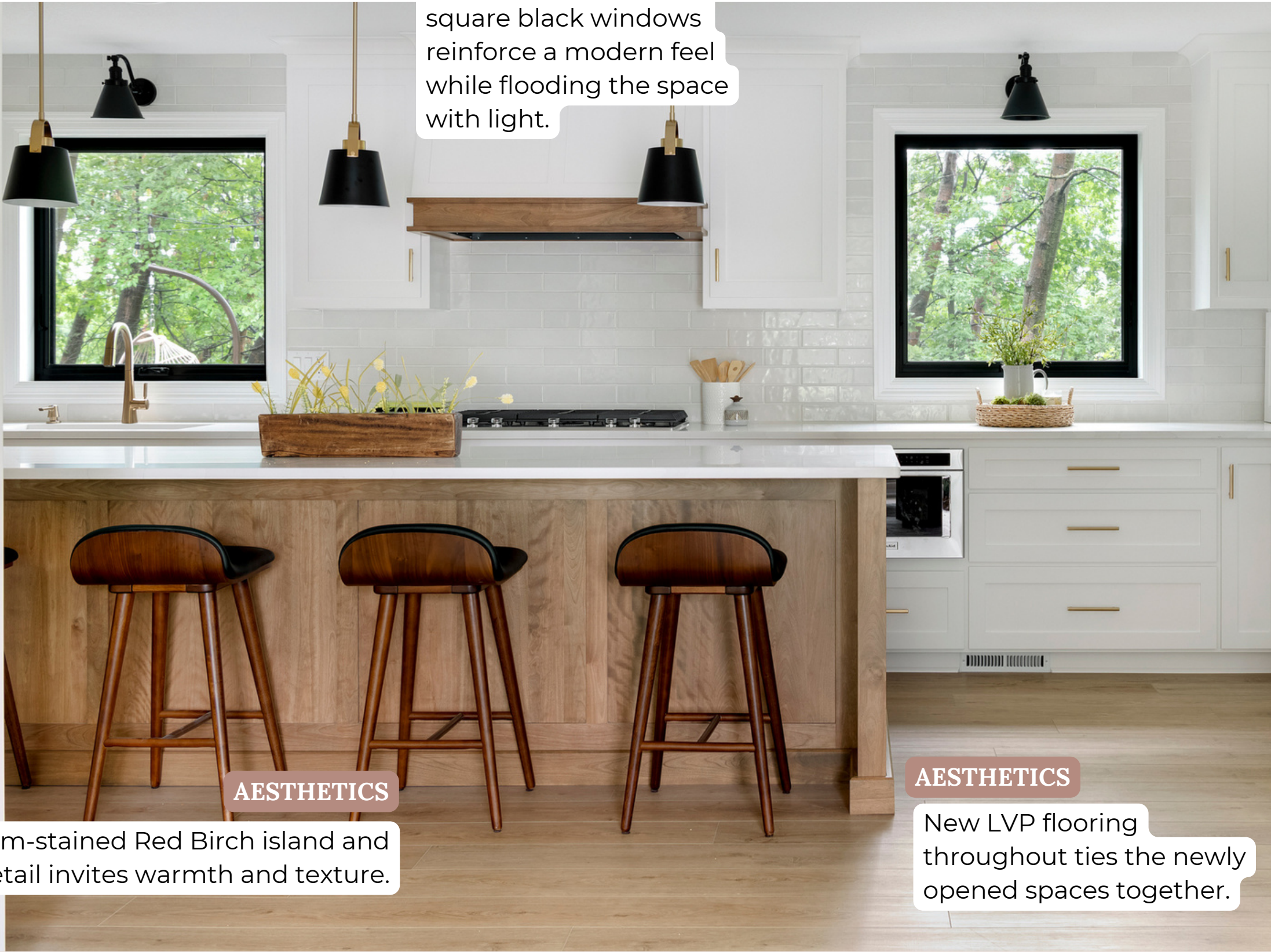
AESTHETICS

Quartz countertops with light grey veining add a hint of visual interest without overwhelming.

Warm-stained Red Birch island and hood detail invites warmth and texture.

AESTHETICS

Enlarged, symmetrical square black windows reinforce a modern feel while flooding the space with light.



AESTHETICS

AESTHETICS

New LVP flooring throughout ties the newly opened spaces together.

Aesthetics

layers of light

Layers of light, including three striking pendant island lights, two wall sconces over each window, recessed lighting and undercabinet lighting play well together, adding personality and options — task, ambient and accent — to mix and match their mood.

