

NARI MINNESOTA - 2026 ROTY AWARDS

PROJECT: The Heartwood Kitchen

CATEGORY: Residential Kitchen \$50,000 to \$100,000

These homeowners were moving to a charming neighborhood in White Bear Lake and needed this older home to suit the needs of a family of five. With limited space, we focused on giving them as much natural flow from walking into their home, through the kitchen and adjacent living space. To maximize space and create more usable space for this active family, we took the wall between the kitchen and living room down. The living room had a beautiful, original cove ceiling that we were able to maintain with our beam which created some definition of space while still opening the two spaces up

CLIENT NEEDS:

- Custom Cabinetry
- More storage
- Improved functional space
- Open space

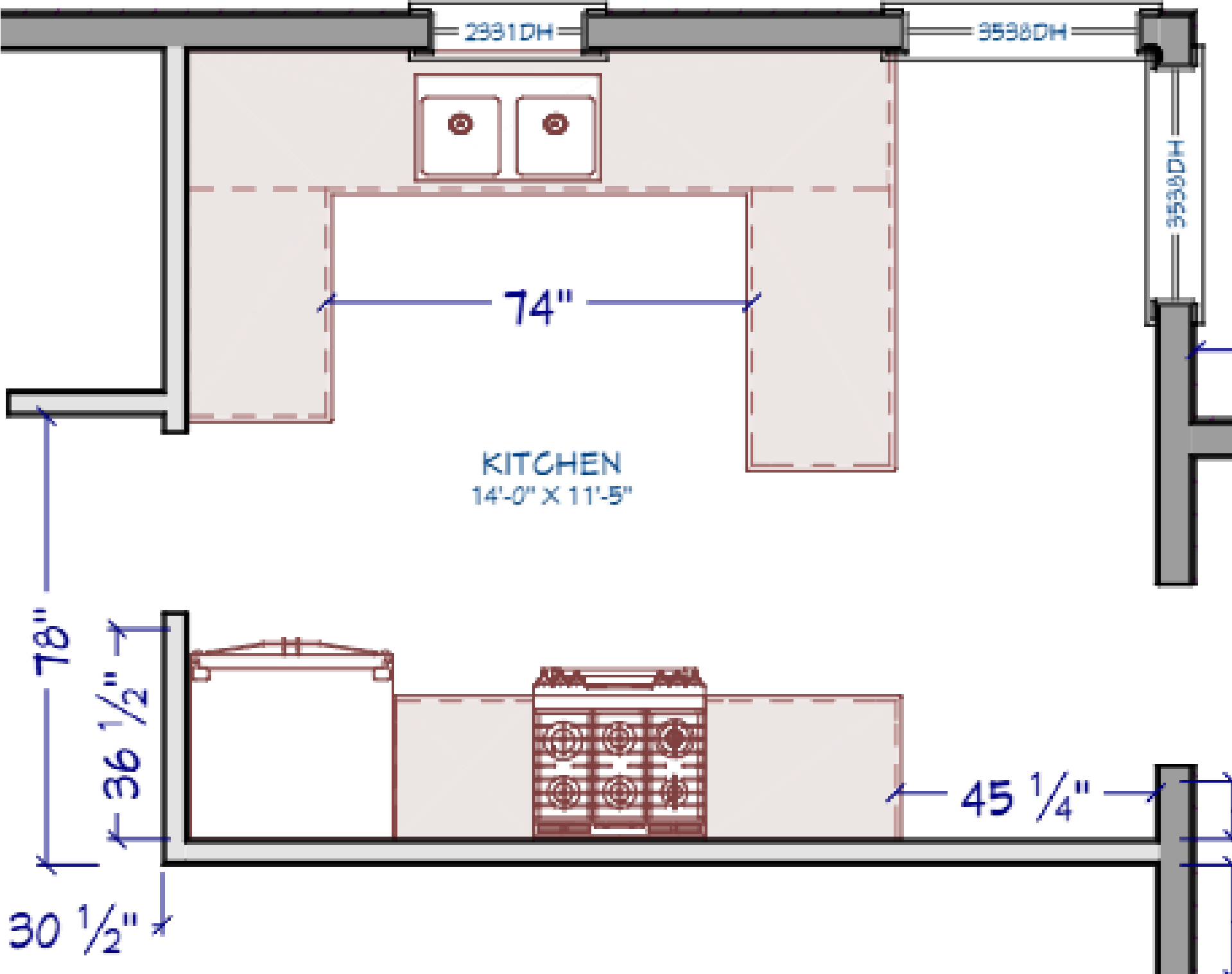


BEFORE PHOTOS



THE HEARTWOOD KITCHEN - 2026 ROTY AWARDS - RESIDENTIAL KITCHEN \$50,000 TO \$100,000

BEFORE FLOOR PLAN



A modern kitchen interior featuring light wood cabinetry, a white countertop, and a central island. The kitchen includes a stainless steel refrigerator, a gas stove, a sink with a brass faucet, and a dishwasher. Two pendant lights hang over the island. A window with a white frame is visible above the sink, and another window is on the right wall. The floor is made of light wood planks.



BEFORE & AFTER



THE HEARTWOOD KITCHEN - 2026 ROTY AWARDS - RESIDENTIAL KITCHEN \$50,000 TO \$100,000

FUNCTIONALITY

- Dedicated zones for cooking and cleanup allow multiple people to use the kitchen comfortably at the same time
- Generous perimeter cabinetry maximizes storage
- Wide, unobstructed pathways provide comfortable circulation between the kitchen and adjoining living and dining spaces
- Continuous countertop surfaces offer ample room for food preparation, small appliances, serving, and everyday household tasks



AESTHETICS

- Statement pendant lights introduce a delicate decorative element
- Crisp white countertops and a soft neutral backsplash balance the warmth of the cabinetry
- A thoughtful mix of natural materials, warm metals, and soft neutrals creates an aesthetic that feels elevated yet approachable



CONSTRUCTION PHOTOS



PROJECT CHALLENGES

- Working with small foot print
- Budget constraints