

A bright, modern kitchen featuring white shaker-style cabinets, a marble countertop with brown and white veining, and a breakfast bar with four wooden stools. The kitchen includes a sink with a brass faucet, a coffee maker, a toaster, and various kitchen items. Large windows provide a view of greenery outside. The text "RESIDENTIAL KITCHEN" is overlaid in large white letters, followed by the price range "\$50,000-\$100,000".

RESIDENTIAL KITCHEN

\$50,000-
\$100,000

NARI REMODELER OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2026

PROJECT TOTAL: \$92,082

3 MONTHS OF RENOVATION



PROJECT Overview

The homeowners wanted to transform their dated kitchen into a lighter, more refined space without unnecessarily replacing cabinetry and appliances that remained functional. The challenge was to achieve the appearance, performance and cohesion of a substantially new kitchen through a carefully planned combination of reuse and new construction.

Existing cabinet boxes were retained and upgraded with new full-overlay Shaker doors, drawer boxes, soft-close hardware and an enameled finish. New cabinetry was introduced where it would make the greatest impact, including a redesigned peninsula, additional upper cabinetry and a custom wood hood. The existing dishwasher, cooktop, refrigerator and double ovens were also incorporated into the new design, while a microwave drawer added functionality without occupying valuable upper cabinetry.

Dramatic porcelain surfaces extend from the countertops onto the backsplash, creating continuity throughout the room. New lighting, a pop-up peninsula outlet, updated plumbing, repaired and refinished red oak flooring and carefully integrated millwork complete the transformation.

The result demonstrates how thoughtful reuse, targeted construction and precise finish coordination can completely redefine an existing kitchen.



THE Challenge

➤ **RENOVATING AN OCCUPIED FAMILY HOME -**

Construction began just two months after the homeowners moved into the home. With young children and the family remaining in the home throughout the renovation, maintaining a safe, livable environment was essential.

Critical-path protection was installed from the front entry to the kitchen, while temporary walls and zippered containment separated the work zone from the foyer, living room and dining room. Careful scheduling, site protection and daily coordination helped minimize disruption while construction progressed.

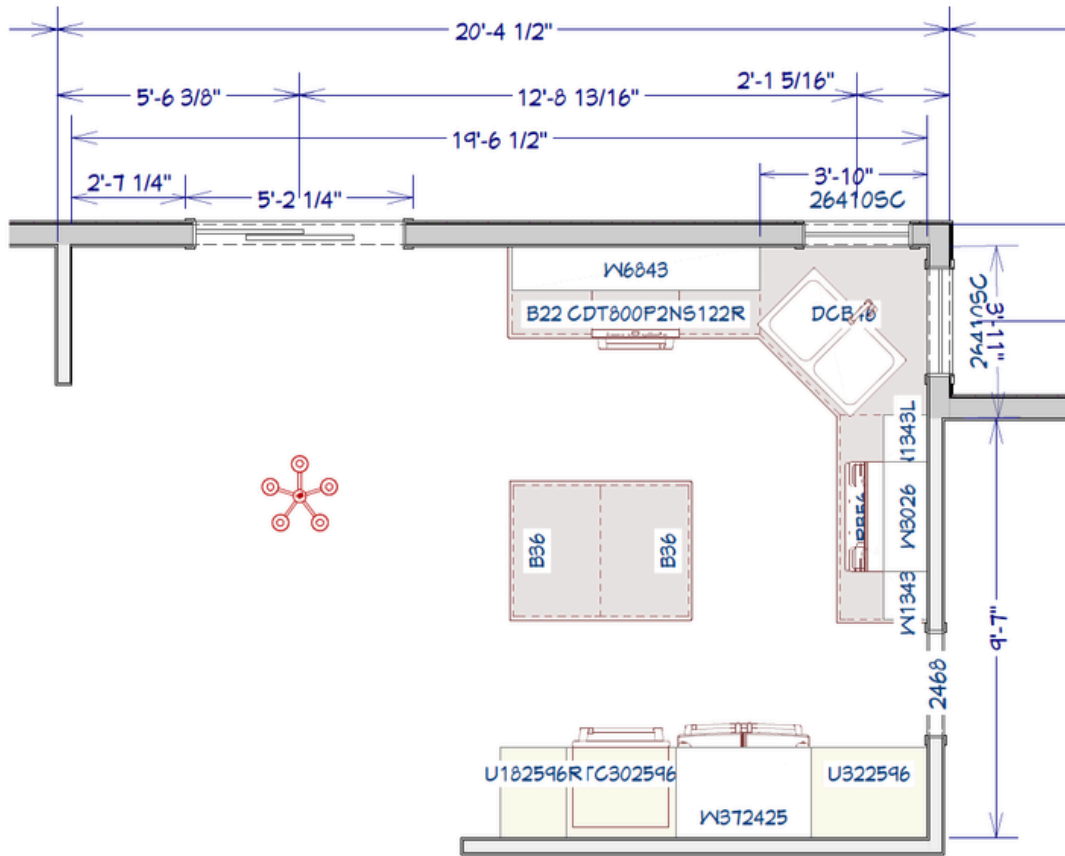
➤ **MAKING OLD + NEW FEEL SEAMLESS -** Existing cabinet boxes had to integrate visually and dimensionally with new peninsula cabinetry, upper cabinets, doors, drawers and a custom hood. Consistent proportions, reveals, hardware and finishing were critical so the completed kitchen would read as one cohesive installation.

➤ **REPAIRING + INTEGRATING EXISTING CONDITIONS -** Removing the island, countertops, backsplash and lighting affected multiple surrounding finishes. Red oak flooring had to be feathered into existing hardwood and refinished, while drywall and ceiling areas required repair.

Electrical modifications also had to integrate new pendants, relocated lighting, a microwave drawer and peninsula power without leaving evidence of the previous configuration.



INTENTIONAL Planning + Design



FLOOR PLAN - BEFORE

The existing kitchen contained the necessary cooking, refrigeration and cleanup functions, but its island and cabinetry configuration limited the opportunity for improved seating, storage and a more cohesive visual composition.

Because several major appliances and the underlying cabinetry remained functional, the design challenge was not simply to replace the kitchen.

It was to determine which elements could be successfully retained and where new construction would have the greatest impact on function and appearance.

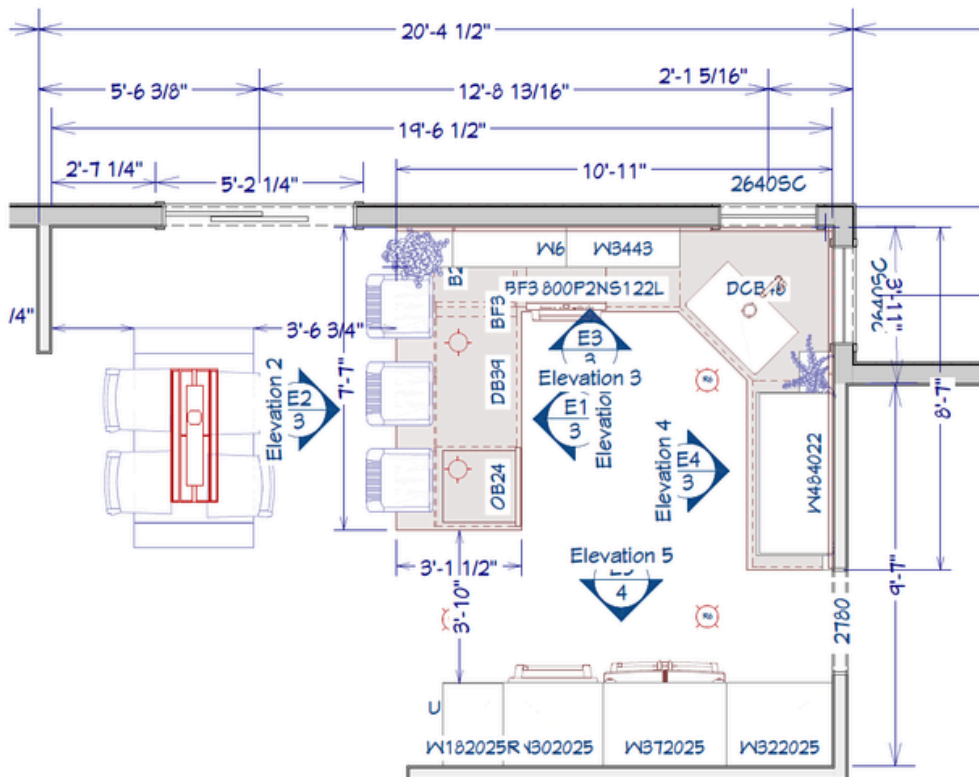
INTENTIONAL Planning + Design

FLOOR PLAN - AFTER

The redesigned plan retains the primary appliance locations while strategically introducing new cabinetry and functionality where it provides the greatest benefit.

The former island was removed and replaced with a new peninsula, expanding the work surface while introducing seating, additional storage, a microwave drawer and an integrated pop-up outlet with USB-C. New upper cabinetry and a custom wood hood strengthen the cooking wall, while existing cabinet boxes were refaced with new doors and upgraded drawers.

By preserving viable components and rebuilding selectively, the new plan improves functionality without requiring unnecessary changes to the kitchen's primary infrastructure.



FUNCTION + Innovation



INTEGRATED POWER

A pop-up outlet with USB-C was incorporated directly into the peninsula, providing convenient power where it is needed while disappearing nearly flush with the countertop when not in use. The solution preserves the uninterrupted appearance of the dramatic porcelain surface.

PURPOSEFUL PENINSULA

The new peninsula replaces the previous island with a larger multifunctional surface for food preparation, serving and seating. New cabinetry increases storage, while an integrated microwave drawer keeps the appliance accessible without occupying upper cabinetry or interrupting the surrounding millwork.

CONTINUOUS SURFACES

The polished porcelain selected for the countertops continues vertically across the backsplash and onto the shelf above the cooktop, turning a functional surface into a defining architectural element.

BEFORE



BEFORE:

PIECES WITHOUT A UNIFIED DESIGN

Warm wood cabinetry, granite surfaces and the compact center island reflected an earlier design era. Although many of the kitchen's underlying components remained functional, differences in cabinetry, surfaces and appliance placement created a visually busy composition.

AFTER



AFTER:

EXISTING ELEMENTS, COMPLETELY REIMAGINED

Rather than discarding serviceable components, the renovation integrates existing cabinet boxes and major appliances into an entirely new visual composition. New shaker doors and drawers, enameled cabinetry, porcelain surfaces and coordinated hardware unify the kitchen, while the new peninsula improves work surface, seating and storage.

BEFORE



BEFORE:

A KITCHEN THAT FELT HEAVY + ENCLOSED

The original combination of warm wood cabinetry, dark granite and an undersized island made the kitchen feel visually dense. The cooktop wall lacked a strong focal point, and the existing finishes did little to emphasize the natural light available from the surrounding windows.

AFTER



AFTER:

HEIGHT, STORAGE + A STRONGER FOCAL POINT

Extending the cabinetry to the ceiling dramatically changed the scale of the kitchen, adding valuable storage while drawing the eye upward and making the ceilings feel taller. The new custom wood hood creates a strong focal point at the center of the cooking wall, replacing the previously fragmented cabinetry with a more intentional architectural feature.

Clean Shaker cabinetry and the hood's sharp, modern lines give the room a more refined, contemporary character, while the lighter finish allows the entire space to feel brighter and more open.

BEFORE



BEFORE:

STORAGE WITHOUT COHESION

The original refrigerator and double ovens were surrounded by cabinetry that provided substantial storage but lacked the architectural consistency the homeowners wanted. The varying appliance heights and existing millwork contributed to a fragmented appearance.

AFTER



AFTER:

EXISTING APPLIANCES, NEW ARCHITECTURE

The existing refrigerator and double ovens were intentionally retained and incorporated into a redesigned cabinetry composition. New upper cabinetry extends the visual line upward and creates a more built-in appearance, while new doors, drawers, hardware and a consistent enameled finish allow retained and newly constructed cabinetry to read as one installation.

BEFORE



AFTER



CRAFTSMANSHIP + DETAIL

- Existing cabinet boxes received new full-overlay shaker doors, new drawer boxes and glides, updated hardware and an enameled finish. New peninsula and upper cabinetry were fabricated to coordinate with the retained construction, while a custom wood hood establishes a new focal point at the cooktop.
- Where the previous island and finishes were removed, existing red oak flooring was feathered in and the surrounding floor refinished to create a continuous surface. Drywall and ceiling areas affected by demolition, electrical relocation and new lighting were repaired, including matching the existing ceiling texture.

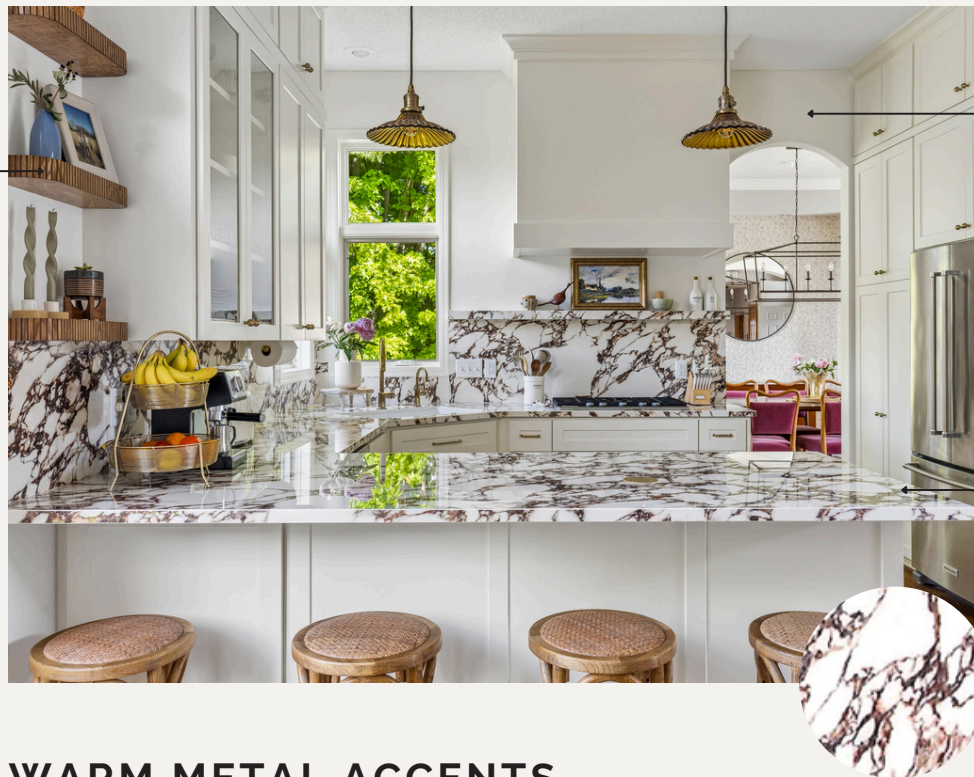


Details *that define the space*

PURPOSEFUL DISPLAY

Floating shelves were carefully positioned to align with the top of the porcelain backsplash installation, creating a clean, intentional transition between the cabinetry and surrounding surfaces.

The shelves provide an open place for the homeowners to display artwork, collected pieces and personal objects, bringing warmth and personality to the kitchen.



WARM METAL ACCENTS

Honey Bronze Top Knobs hardware and polished gold Brizo plumbing introduce warmth against the enameled cabinetry. The metal finishes complement rather than compete with the expressive porcelain.

LIGHTING WITH CHARACTER

Amber recycled-glass pendants above the peninsula introduce texture and color while defining the new gathering area. A brass and dark-wood dining fixture continues the warmer material palette into the adjacent space.

PORCELAIN SURFACES

Polished Viola Porcelain for both the countertops and backsplash - its dramatic veining became the kitchen's primary visual element.

Extending the same material vertically creates continuity while reducing competing finishes.

PROJECT Recap

CLIENT OBJECTIVES

The homeowners wanted a brighter, more contemporary kitchen with improved storage, seating and everyday functionality, but did not want to replace serviceable cabinetry and appliances simply for the sake of starting over. The renovation needed to feel completely transformed while making thoughtful use of what could remain.

FUNCTIONALITY

A new peninsula increases preparation space, storage and seating while integrating a microwave drawer and concealed pop-up power with USB-C. New cabinetry accessories, including pullout drawers, a double trash pullout and sink tip-out, improve organization while retained appliances continue to support the existing cooking and cleanup zones.

INNOVATION

The project's innovation lies in achieving a comprehensive transformation through selective reuse. Existing cabinet boxes and four major appliances were incorporated into the new design while strategic new cabinetry, millwork, surfaces and technology substantially changed how the kitchen looks and performs.

AESTHETICS

Enameled Shaker cabinetry creates a lighter architectural backdrop for expressive Viola porcelain, warm metal finishes and amber glass lighting. Repeating the porcelain across countertops and backsplash creates visual continuity, while the wood flooring and warm accents maintain a connection to the character of the surrounding home.

CRAFTSMANSHIP

New doors, drawers and hardware were precisely integrated with retained cabinet boxes, while newly constructed peninsula and upper cabinetry were coordinated to read as part of the same installation. Porcelain fabrication, cabinetry alignment, flooring repairs, drywall work, lighting and finish transitions required careful execution across multiple trades.

PROBLEM-SOLVING

Integrating existing and new construction required careful coordination across cabinetry, flooring, drywall, electrical and finishes. Areas affected by removal of the island, backsplash and lighting were repaired and blended into surrounding materials, including feathering new red oak into the existing floor and matching the existing ceiling texture.

With the family remaining in the home throughout construction, containment, site protection and scheduling were also carefully coordinated to maintain a safe, livable environment.

