

kitchen+ bath makeovers

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Packed
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Style on the Cheap

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Summer 2011

Display until August 16

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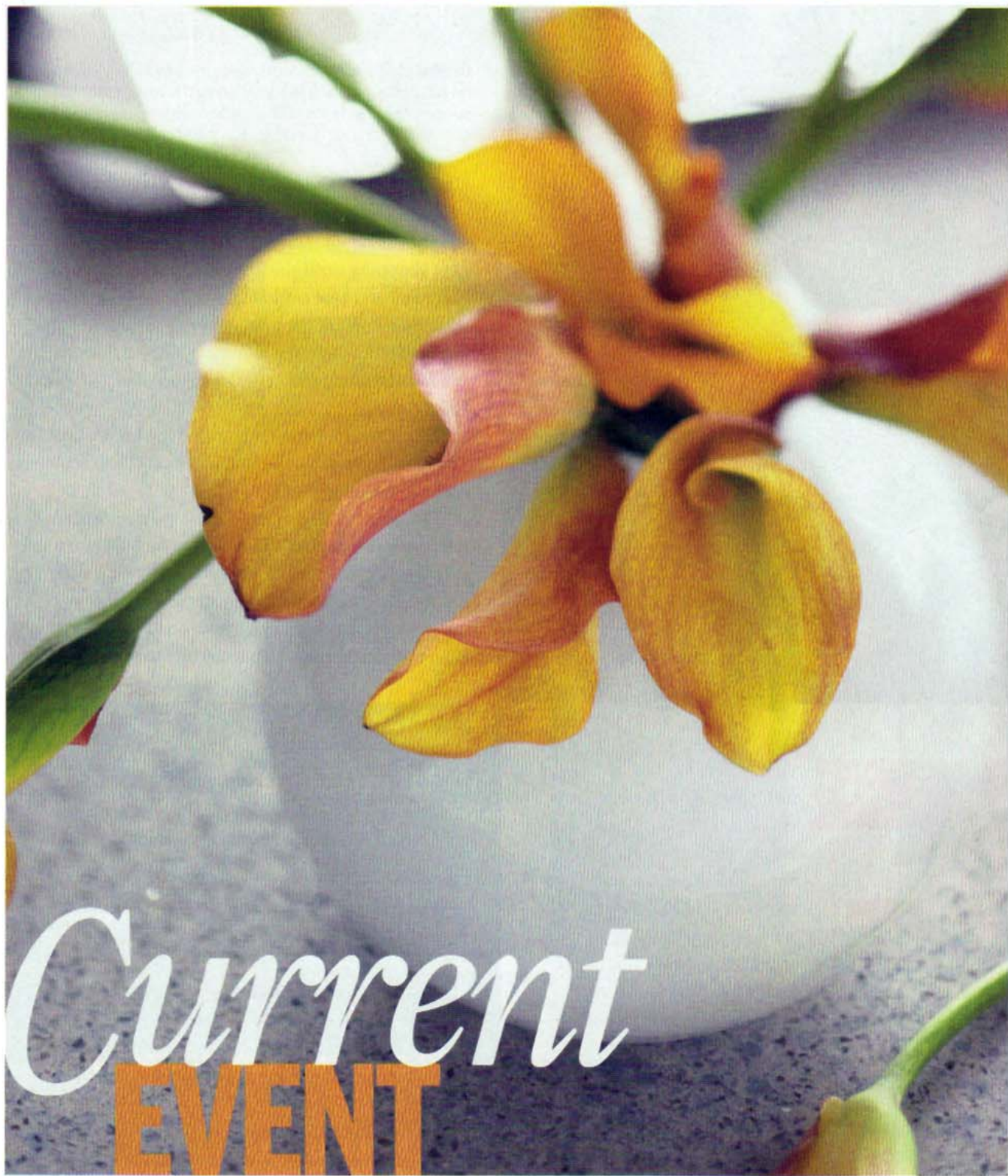


THIS PHOTO The white island base and corner cabinets relate the kitchen to the dining room in this open floor plan and provide a pleasing contrast to the darker cabinet finish. **OPPOSITE** Calla lilies add color atop the quartz-surfacing countertop.

before



in this makeover DARK AND LIGHT CABINETS ■■■ GLASS-TILE
BACKSPLASH ■■■ QUARTZ-SURFACING COUNTERTOPS ■■■ CONTEMPORARY PENDANT



Taking cues from her Chicago townhome's river views and airy spaces, an interior designer elevates her kitchen's style.

WRITER TATE GUNNERSON PHOTOGRAPHER KRITSADA STYLIST MEGAN CHAFFIN



OPPOSITE The cabinet configuration consolidates storage on two walls, opening the kitchen to the rest of the living space. **LEFT** Ebony-stain and white cabinets provide high contrast in interior designer Hilary Bailes' kitchen.

Storage and style were Hilary's priorities, so to reduce costs in other areas, she opted against making significant layout or structural changes. Hilary kept shopping until she found an independent manufacturer that could make the high-end cabinets she wanted at half the price others had quoted. "The upper cabinets have an industrial ribbed-glass insert, to add a lightness and reflect the ripples of the water," Hilary says.

The nearby river also influenced the backsplash tile. The light green glass tile complements the new quartz-surfacing countertops.

"The gray color with green glass worked with the rest of my palette," Hilary says. "I really wanted to invest in a kitchen that reflected my own design aesthetic as you see it from most views in the space."

To maximize storage, she designed a large kitchen island, which she had painted white to match the trim

Frustration followed by anticipation—and then exhilaration. That's how Hilary Bailes describes the three-month renovation of her Chicago kitchen, a project that brought the space in line with the rest of her townhome. An interior designer who works out of her home, Hilary was in love with the urban dwelling's lofted living area, especially the soaring floor-to-ceiling windows, views of the Chicago River, and patio access.

But the 1980s kitchen failed to live up to the townhome's potential. The stock maple cabinets, white appliances, and blackish-green countertops lacked both functionality and style. No more. New ebony-stain cabinets, including upper units with pneumatic lift-up doors, erased the dated look and take advantage of the kitchen's vertical space.

LIVING LARGE

Want your small kitchen to live big? Homeowner and interior designer Hilary Bailes says maximizing a small space is easier than it seems. Here are some of her tips.

- **REPEAT COLORS.**
Developing a design concept and color palette for the entire home will allow you to repeat elements throughout the space, which creates symmetry and depth. For her open-plan kitchen, Hilary selected ebony cabinets to match the diagonally laid hardwood flooring, which results in a flow that helps the entire home feel larger.
- **USE LIGHTING TO CREATE A FOCAL POINT.**
Hilary distinguished the kitchen island with a pendant light fixture that helps to define and enlarge the space.
- **REDUCE CLUTTER.**
Renovating your kitchen is an ideal time to rethink storage. Take stock of odds and ends that clutter the visual space and be sure to assign convenient places to store them. Hilary expanded the island, included wine storage, and sized cabinets to take advantage of every inch of available space.




“I really wanted to invest in a kitchen that **REFLECTED** my own **DESIGN AESTHETIC...**”
 {HOMEOWNER Hilary Bailes}

LEFT Pneumatic door lifts on some of the upper cabinets allow easy access to spices and cooking oils. **BELOW** Hilary retained the kitchen's existing L-shape footprint and appliance configuration, which allowed her to devote even more of the renovation budget to cabinetry and surface upgrades. She carried out the modern feel in the dining area and adjacent freestanding shelves.

color in the rest of the home. The island top's deep overhang offers a place to tuck stools and plenty of surface area for Hilary and her daughter, 7-year-old Margo, to eat and do school projects. "I wanted an island as large as possible out of a material that could survive painting, coloring, and my daughter's crafts activities," Hilary says.

Because Hilary often meets with clients in her home, the renovation made sense professionally as well as personally—it's a great sample of her design work. But the three-month process also delayed the move-in date. "Most of the time it was quite exhilarating as I could see my home slowly come to life and couldn't wait to live there," she says.

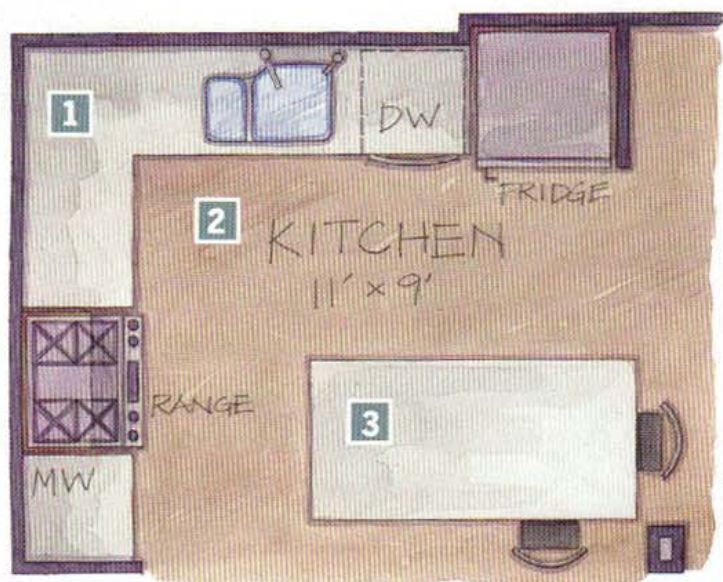
Hilary is happy with the finished kitchen, and it's also a hit with friends, family, and clients. "People walk in and love the river view," she says, "then see the kitchen and love that, too. It's exactly as envisioned." 

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{about this makeover}

THE FLOOR PLAN



1. HANDY PLAN

Preserving the L-shape layout maintained a good traffic flow and freed dollars for stylish surfaces.

2. COMPACT PLACEMENT

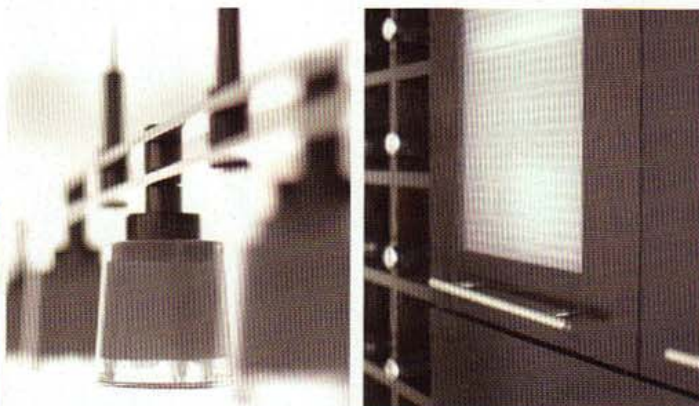
The range, sink, and refrigerator form an efficient work triangle. An above-the-range microwave saves space.

3. ISLAND ANCHOR

Enlarging the island enhanced storage, prep space, and casual dining capacity.

THE DETAILS

RIGHT A modern, five-light pendant over the island creates a warm glow at night. **FAR RIGHT** Sleek nickel hardware complements the room's contemporary style. **BELOW RIGHT** Glass tiles on the backsplash pick up the color of the Chicago River, the focus of the home's scenic views.



THE BUDGET

APPLIANCES

■ Dishwasher	1,430
■ Microwave	619
■ Oven	1,199
■ Refrigerator	1,979

CABINETRY

■ Cabinets	10,200
■ Hardware	300

PLUMBING

■ Faucet	700
■ Sink	886

SURFACES

■ Backsplash	300
■ Countertop	3,417

MISCELLANEOUS

■ Light fixture	332
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TOTAL

\$21,362

