

DESIGN + DECOR

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DESIGN BY THE JONATHANS
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When Lana Nguyen, senior designer with Designs by the Jonathans, was asked to redesign the family kitchen and dining room at this home in Middletown, CT, she used all her creative talents to bring this exquisite space to life. Aiming to create a light-filled, bright and airy space from a once traditional galley-style, tightly planned kitchen, Lana and the family worked collaboratively to bring their ideas to life.

The family sought an area that would allow for better flow and visibility between spaces, where they could keep an eye on their young children while they cooked, and which would support family gatherings in a meaningful way. To achieve this, the design team had to make a few big changes.



Before

First was to remove the majority of the structural wall between the kitchen and dining space. This was an impactful move all its own, as it gave perfect visibility from the kitchen to the built-in breakfast nook. Then, when the team replaced the existing double window with a single window that mirrored the existing kitchen window, it was as if they'd created an entirely new space.

These two architectural moves not only achieved the goal of openness, but also afforded the family additional counter space along the exterior wall, where they relocated the stove and cooktop. This gave designers the opportunity to create space for a much-desired center island—the heart of the kitchen.

While it wasn't easy, design team members were able to slightly reduce the depth of some cabinets on one side to maximize circulation space, and strategically off-center the counter seating at the island, so that it would not interfere with the millwork or circulation.

Where the architectural moves are meticulous and well executed, the beauty of the space is truly evident in the carefully curated design details. The soft variations of white in the counter, backsplash and cabinetry are thoughtfully complemented by the updated light wood floor and matching island finish. These natural wood tones and warm whites make a clean canvas of space that feels bright and open all on its own, but is enhanced by the reflectivity of the glass and

brass details, and grounded through the texture that is artfully woven through the space.

The most beautiful aspect of the kitchen, as Lana describes, is the behind-the-scenes functionality. The family uses the kitchen frequently, and desired a space that was clean and uncluttered by toasters and mixers on the counter. To achieve this, the design team integrated full-height cabinets on either side of the windows, framing them softly while adding the illusion of height and volume to the space. These two cabinets serve as appliance cupboards: one a dedicated coffee station, the other a home to appliances that live on the counter without creating visual clutter.

The details woven throughout this space are subtle yet effective in both design and functionality—a transformation in the truest sense.

KNOWLEDGE

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