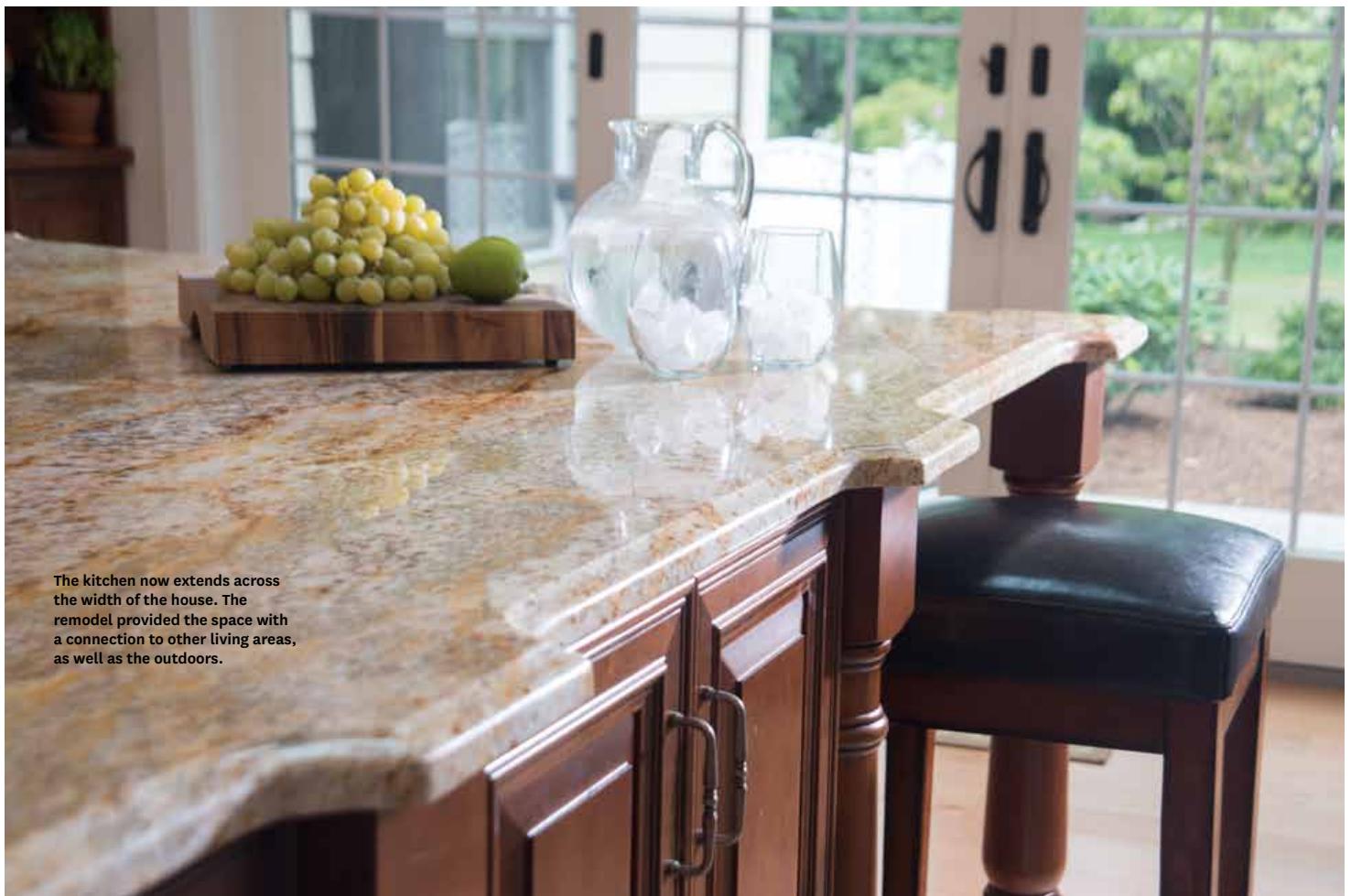


A 21st-CENTURY KITCHEN

LIKE MANY [MID-CENTURY KITCHENS](#), THIS ONE WAS SMALL AND NOT VERY FUNCTIONAL. WORKING WITH [DAVID WHITE OF KITCHEN ENCOUNTERS](#), THE HOMEOWNERS WERE ABLE TO CREATE AN OPEN, MULTIFUNCTIONAL DESIGN THAT MELDS WITH THE OTHER LIVING AREAS, AS WELL AS THE OUTDOORS.



The kitchen now extends across the width of the house. The remodel provided the space with a connection to other living areas, as well as the outdoors.



Prior to the remodel, the kitchen extended out to the corner of the refrigerator and was cut off from the rest of the living areas by a laundry room. Now, it's an integral part of the first floor and is perfect for casual family dining or full-scale entertaining.



THE FAMILY OF FOUR purchased their mid-century house three years ago. The neighborhood features classic homes on wooded lots that are a stone's throw from the Conestoga River. The new owners immediately formulated a "to-do" list. The kitchen, which needed some serious work, topped the list. "It was an odd setup for a house of this size," David says, recalling the first time he saw the small kitchen that was separated from the rest of the house by a laundry room. "The laundry room dominated a large portion of the kitchen space," he says.

It was also obvious the kitchen had been remodeled. "The Euro-look, '80s-style," he says of the maple cabinetry. "Like most pre-'90s kitchens, this one was not conducive for entertaining," David observes. It was essentially dedicated to cooking ... in isolation. "Today's kitchens are geared more to cooking and mingling," David reports, noting that the mingling element could entail anything from a family catching up on their day over dinner served atop the island to friends gathering around it for an impromptu party.

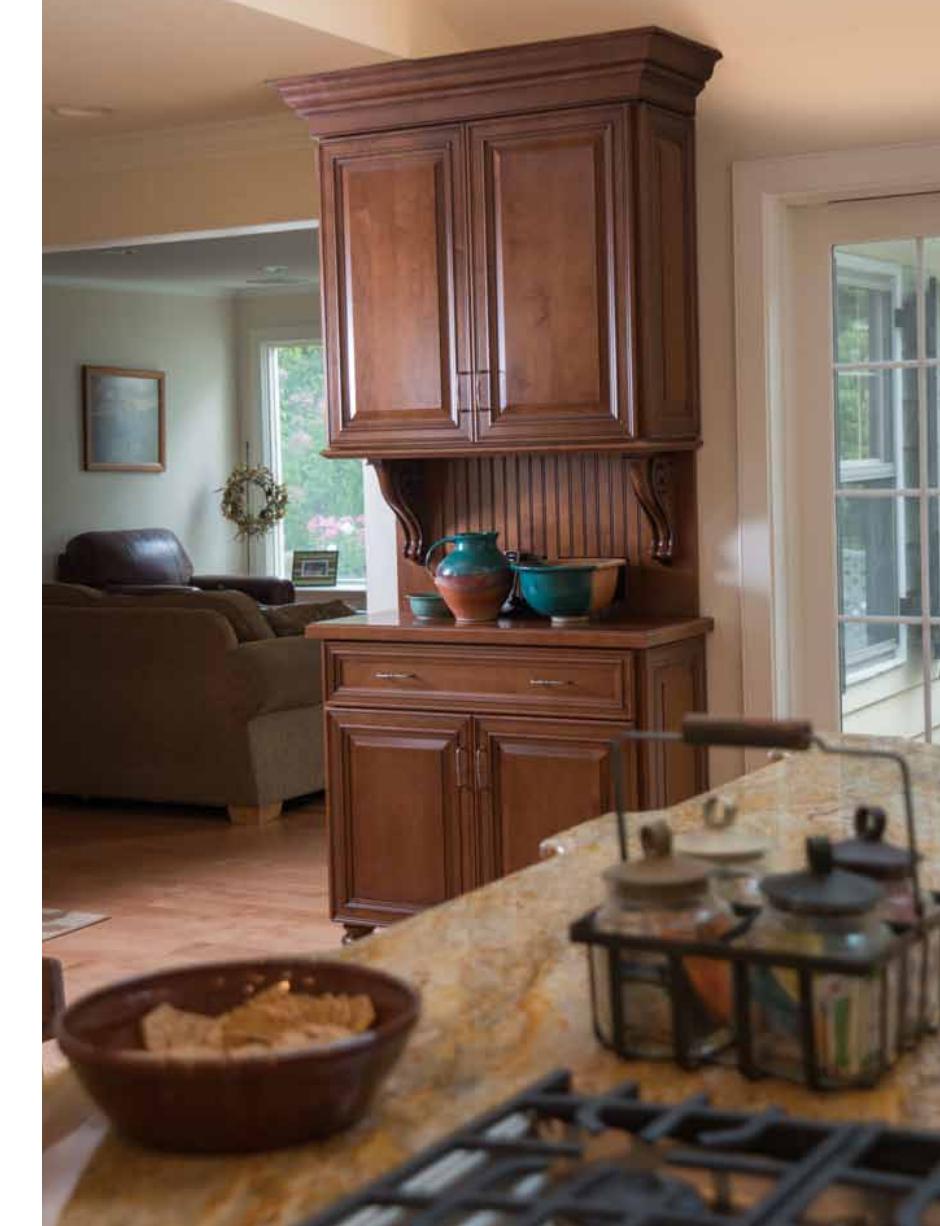
By the time David met with the homeowners in the summer of 2012, they had devoted considerable thought to the project. Their wish list consisted of opening up the kitchen and connecting it to the other living areas; updating its look; making it more multifunctional; introducing more light and relocating the laundry. Ultimately, David's design accomplished all of that ... and more.

1

The last item on the list was easily accomplished – the laundry was incorporated into the large rec room that's easily accessible from the driveway/garage, as well as the kitchen. A portion of what had been the laundry was transformed into a pantry.

2

Moving the laundry allowed for the kitchen to expand across the width of the house. Creating the illusion of spaciousness was also accomplished by continuing the new maple hardwood flooring into the dining and sitting rooms, as well as through the hallway that leads to the laundry.



A custom hutch, whose stained/glazed maple finish matches that of the island, is easily accessible from the kitchen, dining room and patio.

3

Natural light now floods the space. That was accomplished by replacing the rear wall with windows and sliding-glass doors. Now, the kitchen has easy access to the patio, as well as a beautiful view of the backyard. Overhead, skylights also were added.

4

The updated look – which David deems to be "timeless and classic" – was achieved through custom cabinetry from Brighton. The island's stained/glazed maple finish complements the off-white, brushed/glazed finish of the wall cabinets that are topped with multiple crown moldings. Granite tops the island, while quartz covers the counters. Tile and glass accents comprise the backsplash.



A cut-out provides the kitchen with a mini-sized media center. Quartz tops the counters, while granite covers the island.

5

The addition of an island helps to make the space more multifunctional. The island holds the cooktop, is home to ample storage/organizing cabinets and can double as a dinner table for family meals or a buffet for entertaining purposes. The new traffic pattern through the kitchen and other living areas of the house is a plus when the family entertains.

6

Reuse also entered into the picture, as the family wanted to retain the fairly new cooktop and ovens. While the cooktop was relocated to the island, the ovens stayed in place. The new stainless refrigerator and dishwasher seamlessly fit into the design.

The two-and-a-half-month project was not without its challenges. Storage is critical where kitchens are concerned. This one was problematic in that there was only one cabinet-friendly wall. Hence, the island would need to contain the bulk of storage. A custom hutch-like cabinet that's easily accessible from the dining room provides storage for linens and other essentials.

David terms the work done on the peaked ceiling "a feat of engineering," due to the electrical upgrades that were needed and the insulation that had to be added. "It was a complex job in some ways because a lot of the work involved things you

don't see," he explains. David credits the fluidity of the project to the fact that his company not only designs all aspects of the space, but due to the addition of its sister company, Paragon Design & Construction, Kitchen Encounters is able to serve as the general contractor for a job, and handle all facets of the design and remodel process.

CREDITS

DESIGN: David White/Kitchen Encounters
CABINETRY: Brighton/Kitchen Encounters
GRANITE: Indoor City
APPLIANCES: Martin Appliance

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