



Floor Plan Finesse

WARM WOODS AND COOL DESIGNS UPDATE A TEPID KITCHEN WITHOUT GIVING THE COLD SHOULDER.

BY THE TIME ANN AND DAVID STOLFA'S GRADUAL, WHOLE-HOUSE REDO HIT THE KITCHEN, the room was overdue for an update. Its 1980s laminate cabinets, vinyl flooring, and fluorescent lighting were a disconnect with the couple's midcentury modern home and their tastes. And though the kitchen was spacious, its layout was not conducive to entertaining.

Design principal Scott Parker and interior designer Kristi Dinner helped the Stolfas bring the kitchen in sync and make better use of the space. Dinner was one of Ann's college roommates. "I've known Ann a long time, so I understand where she's coming from," Dinner says. "She wanted to give the kitchen a more modern, classic feel without being trendy, while making it warm and inviting."

Dinner did that by enveloping the kitchen in clean lines and a rich palette of wood tones—including dark walnut cabinets—while Parker focused on a new gathering-friendly, island-based layout.

The new two-level, five-sided island in Ann and David Stolfa's kitchen serves as a focal point of activity and style. Cooks and guests converge there, as do light and dark elements.



THOUGH RICH IN DARK WOOD, THE KITCHEN DOESN'T FEEL TOO HEAVY OR OVERLY FORMAL. WHITE ACCENTS, CLEAN LINES, AND AN OPEN LAYOUT CREATE A LIGHT, SOPHISTICATED LOOK.



The cabinets, some with zebra wood doors, others with ribbed-glass panels, make a bold yet warm statement. "I like the texture of the ribbed glass and how it relates to the zebra wood," Dinner says. "I like the movement and drama of it."

The ribbed-glass units extend to countertop level, adding visual variety and maximizing storage space. Light granite on the countertops and backsplash provides contrast. "Usually I don't like to use the same material for the countertops and the backsplash," Dinner says. "But, because of the heavy grain patterns in the wood, it made better design sense to keep the granite as a simple element for both."

The wood and granite meet on the new island, a five-sided, two-level workstation that Parker made room for by borrowing space from an adjoining utility room. The island's wedge design lets cooks and guests share the kitchen in comfort and style. "The island reacts to the kitchen in shape and how it functions," Parker says.

Given how the island—like the rest of the kitchen—attracts the Stolfas and their guests, the reaction is positive. **KBI**

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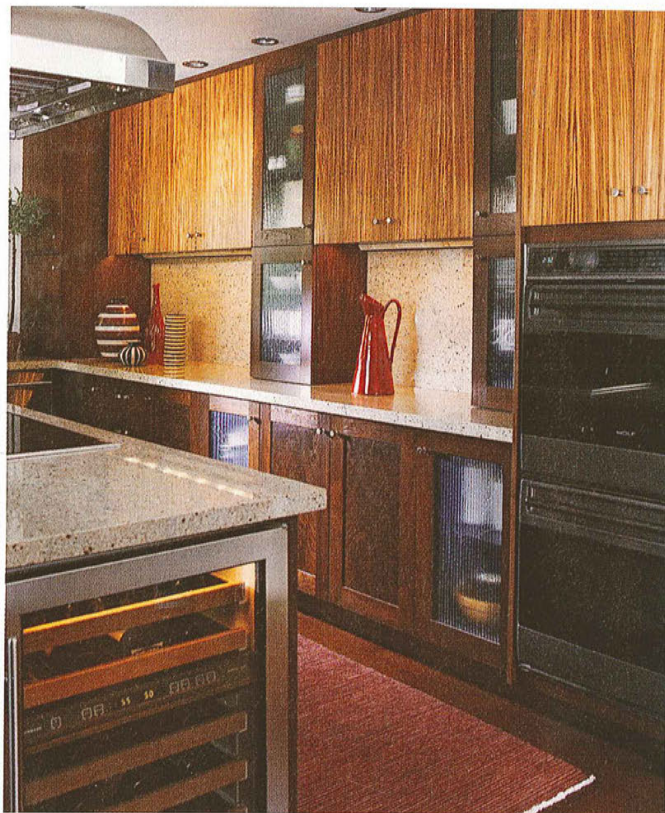
TOP LEFT: Design principal Scott Parker and interior designer Kristi Dinner—one of Ann's college roommates—gave the Stolfas a warm, contemporary kitchen that's more in keeping with the look of their midcentury modern home in Colorado. Rich walnut and zebra wood mingle with lighter elements to create a dramatic yet inviting space, while the new layout—anchored by an island—makes entertaining guests easier for the couple.

FAR LEFT: The side of the versatile island that faces the eating area incorporates open shelving for attractive storage and display. Two refrigerator drawers are well-disguised yet within easy reach of both the cook and guests. The island also holds a wine cooler.

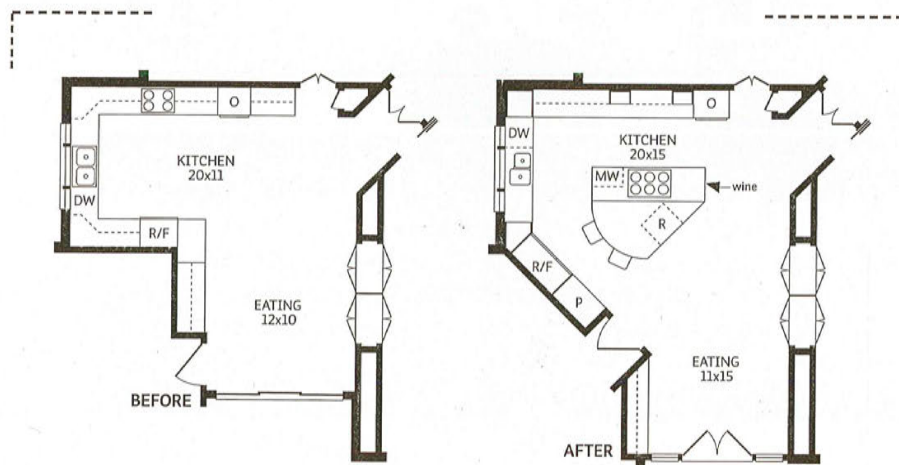
LEFT: Ribbed-glass panels set off narrow walnut-framed cabinets that extend from countertop height to the ceiling. The ribbing echoes striations in the upper-cabinet zebra wood doors and provides visual breathing room in the wall of cabinetry.

KITCHEN NOTEBOOK

Crowd Pleaser
Floor Plan Finesse ★
Style Forward

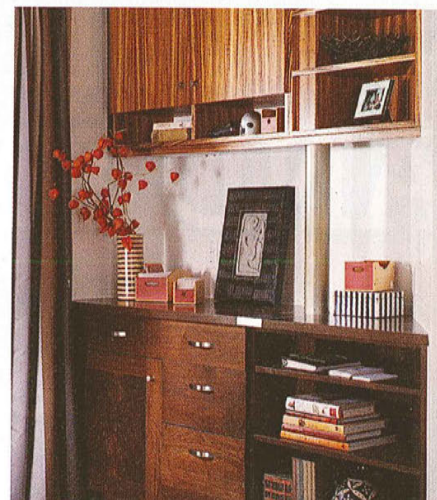


WITH THE ISLAND AS A HUB, THE KITCHEN NOW HAS THE EYE-CATCHING FOCAL POINT IT LACKED BEFORE, AS WELL AS A CONVENIENT WAY STATION BETWEEN THE WELL-SPACED PERIMETER ZONES.



ANGLING FOR CHANGE

The kitchen expanded into adjacent utility space on one side, creating room for a strategically shaped, multipurpose island. A gently angled pantry/refrigerator wall replaced a sharp corner, helping unite the kitchen and eating area into a space that can easily accommodate a crowd.




TOP LEFT: The sink window offers views of the landscaped front yard, while corner cabinets on either end of the sink wall provide extra-deep storage. The dishwasher boasts a sleek stainless-steel front. **TOP RIGHT:** Having the cooktop on the island and the ovens on the wall makes it easier for multiple cooks to share the kitchen. The counter-level cabinets along the oven wall help define workstations. **ABOVE:** A steel column in the desk area had to stay, so it was fixed up and integrated into the design. The space works as a bar for parties.

THIS PHOTO: The pairing of a dressy double vanity and a sleek light fixture epitomizes the blend of classic and clean in Ann and David Stolfa's master bath.

OPPOSITE: The wall tile, a mosaic of carrara and Thassos marble, presents timeless surfaces in a fun and forward-looking form.

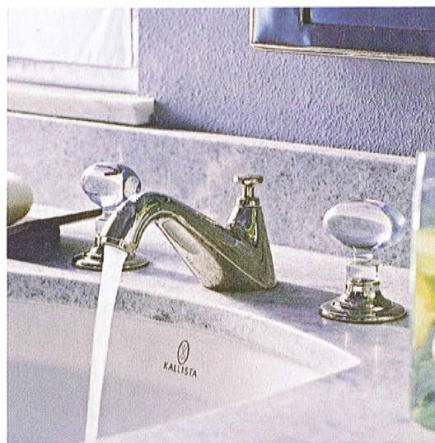




EXPANSIVE THINKING

Space-enhancing design opens
a master bath to a fresh, clean
look—tempered by tradition.

ANN AND DAVID STOLFA ENVISIONED A CLEAN-LINED MASTER BATH FOR THEIR MIDCENTURY MODERN HOME,



but the jarring reality of robin's-egg-blue fixtures and mirrored wall panels blocked the view. Design principal Scott Parker and interior designer Kristi Dinner cleared the way for an update that feels more open and sophisticated.

"The biggest challenge of this project was that we didn't have a lot of new space we could capture," Dinner says. So the designers focused on visually expanding existing space.

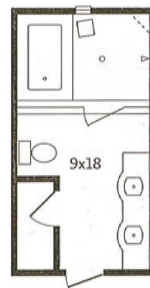
The big step was removing a wall that had split the bath into smaller spaces. "When we combined those two areas, it really opened up the room," Dinner says. It also allowed the designers to place the tub and shower together in a "wet-room" configuration.

A light color palette further expands the room. Soft blue-gray walls in the vanity area replaced the mirrored panels, the color repeating in creamy marble and intriguing geometric-pattern tile.

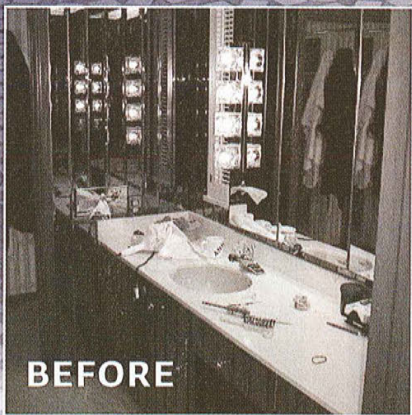
"I wanted to stick with a classic pattern but use it in an interesting way," Dinner says of the tile. "And by carrying the tiles through the entire floor and up onto part of the back wall in the wet room, it really gives the illusion of a lot more space than there is."

There's enough real space, though, for the furniture-style double vanity, inspired by a 1940s dresser. Its sleek curves and classic charm embody the couple's desire for modern elegance. **KBI**

OPPOSITE: A "wet room" combines the shower and tub behind glass, creating a sense of openness. **ABOVE LEFT:** The mahogany vanity boasts a bowed front and sleek hardware. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Glass faucet handles are another old-fashioned touch given a modern treatment. **LEFT:** The tub is bathed in a sea of marble tiles and slabs.



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BEFORE