

The No-Work Kitchen...Cleans Itself

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GOOD DESIGN
ON A BUDGET

Country Collectibles Presents #60
WINTER 2011

Kitchen

STYLE & DESIGN

Small Kitchen Winners

100 Solutions That Will Surprise You

BEFORE & AFTERS

Smart choices
for timeless looks

BUYER'S GUIDE

Cabinets, Appliances, Countertops,
Backsplashes, Flooring, Lighting...



Light, Fun & Functional

Numerous curves offer a great sense of movement.

By Barbara Ballinger

When an actor living in Chicago hired designer Leslie Markman-Stern to redo his dark, gloomy kitchen, he asked for a room that would be light, fun and functional. The designer immediately picked up on his humorous personality and went hunting for design ingredients that were quirky yet would also function superbly.

To accomplish her role, Markman-Stern went as far as she could from straight-laced design. The new kitchen has curves at every glance and color from head to toe.

Yet, the new space remains as highly functional as any other kitchen Markman-Stern has designed. She selected quality appliances with stainless steel fronts for some brightness. Choice two was to bring in numerous curves that would also offer a great sense of movement in the relatively small area.

Markman-Stern achieved that goal when she found unadorned, curved cherry cabinets trimmed in metal at the top and base from an Italian line distributed in the U.S. that was also affordable. The cabinets offered an additional perk: no sharp corner edges in the small space. Markman-Stern placed the majority of cabinets beneath the countertops to keep the space above light and airy.

To add a greater sense of roominess to the space, vent cooking odors and have room for an eating counter that could double as an extra work surface, she placed the four-burner cooktop and big hood in a corner. The countertop in that area boldly juts out to form the circular eating surface, which also provides the extra work space.



CORNER POCKET By placing a cooktop in the corner, the designer could accommodate an oversized curving peninsula counter.



BEND & STRETCH The curved end of a second counter conserves space and echoes the main counter's shape.

DESIGNER NOTES

WISH LIST: Overhaul gloomy kitchen in an 1880 Victorian home; get traditional function in fun, whimsical, non-traditional form; be able to fit two cooks comfortably

DESIGNER: Leslie Markman-Stern
Leslie M. Stern Design Ltd.
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LOCATION: Chicago, IL
DIMENSIONS: 13 x 13 feet

SPECIAL FEATURES: European-style; curved cabinets and countertops; funky and fun design;

glass and metal accents

PRODUCTS USED: PediniUSA, Artika line cabinetry; KitchenAid refrigerator and ovens; Euro hood; Bosch dishwasher; Franke sink; CaesarStone countertop; antiqued limestone floor

TIMETABLE: One year

CHALLENGE: Outfitting a conventional home and footprint with something out-of-the-ordinary

SOLUTIONS: Installing curvy cabinetry and countertops that "un-box" the space and, with no sharp corners to contend with, make moving around the kitchen easier



CURVES AHEAD
Incorporating "fun" in this design meant a curved counter/eating spot, funky stools and rich blue-painted walls.