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Curvelicious

BY JANET RAASCH
PHOTOGRAPHY BY
DOUG EDMUNDS

The soft curves of the elliptical ceiling cutout and the shape of the banquette in this Shorewood kitchen create a sophisticated and relaxed atmosphere for dining and socializing. For another view on this Deep River Partners project, go to page 83.

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Beautiful custom millwork by A. Fillinger Inc. and an energy-efficient and creative lighting plan by Steven Klein of Klein Lighting are integral to the kitchen design by Deep River Partners architects.

Strategic Plan

BY JANET RAASCH | PHOTOGRAPHY BY DOUG EDMUNDS

The kitchen renovation of the 1900s Shorewood brick Colonial goes beyond creating an updated space for a young professional couple. The design by Deep River Partners architects, Milwaukee, accomplishes the homeowners' goal of a larger area for cooking and socializing by knocking out the requisite walls and reorganizing the space, while giving thoughtful consideration to the aesthetics and function of the space.

In order to make the space feel larger, Deep River Design Principle Richard Sherer uses visual strategies, such as creating a focal point with the dark walnut island and using white cabinetry around the perimeter of the kitchen to expand the space visually. "We also used an island that was one height so we didn't get vertical interruption," Sherer says.

A coffered ceiling over the island and the elliptical cutout over the banquette give the impression of taller ceilings. "The other challenge that we faced was how to provide the function not just the aesthetic," Sherer says. He accomplishes this by creating entertaining and work zones within the space and by selecting a space-saving trough prep sink in the island, a five-burner cooktop that allows for storage underneath and counter space on either side, and banquette seating that takes up less space than a traditional table and chairs.

The new layout creates an open, airy feel that is filled with natural light, Sherer says. "The spirit is one that is clean, yet beckons to the home's historical roots. It's unencumbered so that the people in the space become the life of the atmosphere and the architecture is a subtle backdrop. At the same time, I think it's a lively atmosphere created not so much with color but with the architecture."