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Repeat Reno

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A Cedar Grove couple sought out Richard Sherer of Deep River Partners architects to revamp the kitchen of their home on Lake Michigan, an update to a project he had done 20 years previously. Highlights of the new design are a greater openness to the rest of the house and features to help the couple "age in place." For more, see page 74.



5 REASONS TO LOVE THIS SPACE

Open Concept: By opening up the kitchen and dining room and adding skylights in the kitchen, natural light fills the rooms. "A vaulted ceiling also makes it more spacious and open," architect Nick Blavat says. An exterior wall was bumped out to create more square-footage in the dining area, and blends well with the ranch style of the house, he says. The new layout connects the views of the woods and Lake Michigan on either side of the house.

Cabinetry: Inspired by cabinets the homeowners had seen in *M Magazine*, the veneer cabinetry created by A. Fillinger Inc. was the starting point for the design. Blavat

says contrasting translucent cabinets keep the cabinetry from overwhelming the space. "We didn't want to have too much of a good thing."

Island: The uniquely shaped island is situated for optimal outdoor views. "We wanted to create an eat-in casualness," Blavat says. The bar stools are from Room and Board. The island countertop is speckled with reclaimed beach glass. "It's a subtle nod to life on a lake property," Blavat says, "and plays well with the Southwest theme of the house without being in-your-face about it."

Aging in Place: The well-thought-out design incorporates a number of features to help the homeowners adapt as they age. For instance,

cabinet pulls are longer for easy gripping, double wall ovens are more ergonomic and commercial-grade vinyl flooring is softer than wood or ceramic tile, Blavat says. Even contrasting materials help to visually distinguish areas within the kitchen, he notes.

Outdoors In: The open design encourages a strong connection to the outdoors. The project also included a covered porch to enjoy views of the woods and a connection to the deck on the lake side of the property.

Design: Deep River Partners, Richard Sherer and Nick Blavat

Contractor: Source 1 Project Solutions

Interior Designer: Leslie Eiler, Deep River Partners

Homeowners: David and Ruth Springob, Cedar Grove

Spending winters in Arizona and summers at their home on Lake Michigan in Cedar Grove, the Springob's kitchen renovation was spurred by their desire to maintain functionality as they grow older. The requisite components of a sleek modern aesthetic are present, teamed seamlessly with ease-of-use features.