



WHAT THEY WANTED:

The U-shaped kitchen in the Schusters' 1947 ranch was cramped and dated. When it came time to remodel, the couple sought functional workspace for Mike, who loves to cook, as well as a roomier dining area where they could entertain friends or family. They were also looking for a design that would complement their home's mid-century roots.

Borrowing space from a small screened porch, the expanded kitchen now boasts a sleek transitional look that meshes with the rest of the freshly updated interior. "It has a certain elegance, but it doesn't look misplaced in our ranch home," says Mike.

HOW THEY ACHIEVED IT:

The couple came up with a rough outline of what they wanted, but Tina Muller, of Drury Design, who worked with them on the project, helped them refine their plans and suggested expanding the room a little. To make the kitchen wider, they bumped out into what was formerly a seldom-used back porch, gaining 200 square feet. This afforded enough room to add a center island, create an eating area for six, and include a beverage center.

By reconfiguring the layout and downsizing the pantry, they were also able to gain a few extra feet in the adjacent dining room, where



they moved the entry and added a buffet cabinet for china storage, notes Muller. "They wanted more space for entertaining, and by moving a few things around, we were able to provide that," she says.

The new kitchen features dark cherry cabinets, which are balanced by gleaming white handmade tiles and light granite countertops. With a larger window, improved lighting and more reflective surfaces, including etched glass panels in some of the cabinetry, the new space is brighter than ever, even with the rich wood tones in the room.

Mike says the kitchen makes cooking easier and more enjoyable and he loves the thoughtful organization of the space. "Everything Tina did fit in with our house and our lifestyle. She helped us maximize and improve on the good bones of what we had in our home," says Mike.

Laura is pleased with the project as well. "In the old kitchen, there was no flow, no room for anybody but a cook," she says. "This has made a night and day difference. It's a dream to entertain in now."