



**Homeowners:** Doug and Stephanie Wolfe, Hinsdale  
**Design:** Diana Burton, Designer, Drury Design  
Kitchen & Bath Studio, Glen Ellyn  
**Type of Project:** Remodel



## SPACIOUS TRANSITION

### WHAT THEY WANTED:

When Doug and Stephanie Wolfe purchased their Hinsdale home three years ago, they knew the kitchen was ready for a reboot. Several years of living with the dated, poorly configured space provided them ample time to determine what they wanted in a new kitchen.

"The biggest thing was functionality — we needed a bigger space to gather with family and friends and be able to entertain," says Stephanie. "The old kitchen had two breakfast bar peninsulas, which didn't work for us. It also had dark cabinetry, and we were looking to brighten it up."

"We really wanted a big island everyone could gather around," adds Doug.

### HOW THEY ACHIEVED IT:

With the help of designer Diana Burton from Drury Design, the Wolfes were able to fit almost all of their wish list into the reconfigured space, without adding any square footage.

To improve the flow of the kitchen, Burton replaced the dual peninsulas with an expansive center island, relocated the doorway to the dining room, and eliminated the corner pantry. This also made room for larger appliances, including a 48-inch range with a decorative hood, which is faux-finished to look like metal. "A custom metal hood is a high-ticket item, and this was a way of getting that look for less," explains Burton.

Lowering the vaulted ceiling and creating a walnut-clad barrel vault above

the sink area dramatically changed the look of the room, which was given a transitional update via a mix of painted maple perimeter cabinets and a stained hickory island, paired with granite and quartz countertops.

A space-saving banquette with recycled leather upholstery in the eating area was Burton's idea, but it's become a feature the Wolfes appreciate. "I fought it, but now I really enjoy it. It makes a nice cozy corner, and the kids like it because it's like going out to dinner," says Doug.

Lighting was also improved, with the creation of six zones controlled by one switch.

"It's much more comfortable to work and entertain in," says Stephanie of the new space, "and that's what I enjoy most."