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Recipe **FOR** Renewal

5 AMAZING KITCHENS PACKED WITH PERFORMANCE AND PANACHE

When thinking about moving or remodeling, the kitchen is often a key consideration. Everyone wants the heart of their home to beat strongly, and that means selecting components and finishes that reflect and enhance their lifestyle. Here are five kitchens that are as unique as their owners.

by Lisa Sloan



WELL POLISHED

Homeowners: Jeff and Debra Du Bose of Oak Brook

Design: Jason Wickline of Drury Design in Glen Ellyn

Type of Project: Remodel

WHAT THEY WANTED:

In the 25 years since Jeff and Debra Du Bose moved into their Oak Brook home, the kitchen had not been updated. "It was time for a refresh," says Jeff.

It was also a bit cramped and inefficient, and the couple was eager to have a space fit for cooking and entertaining.

"The existing kitchen was closed off to the rest of the first floor, making entertaining very difficult," says designer Jason Wickline of Drury Design, who worked with them on the project.

HOW THEY ACHIEVED IT:

The first order of business was to remove walls between the kitchen and the family and dining rooms to create an open floor plan. Cabinets with glass doors on both sides between the kitchen and dining room provide display and storage while still maintaining the open feel. The large center island offers plenty of space for food prep, and one end is rounded like a table with chairs for everyday seating.

A mix of materials and finishes add interest to the room, starting with a white-painted center island and refrigerator cabinet that contrast with the dark-stained maple cabinetry throughout the rest of the space. The main countertops and stove wall backsplash are quartzite, while the sink wall backsplash features stacked limestone tiles. Two types of glass tile add shine to the wine and beverage center between the kitchen and family room.

For more gleam, the range hood was custom crafted of polished chrome and

features a wood accent band that coordinates with the cabinetry.

The finished room has an elegant, transitional look, and the couple liked it so well that the project snowballed into a whole-house redo. They also worked with Elmhurst-based interior designer Donna Miceli to select furnishings and some of the light fixtures.

"The thing that stands out to me is the feel you get when you go into the kitchen — it's a complete lifestyle change," says Jeff, who now enjoys spending mornings at the countertop table with his laptop and a cup of coffee, something he would have never done in the old kitchen.

Debra appreciates the added function resulting from the new high-end appliances and cabinet accessories, which include tray slots, pullouts and a pop-up mixer shelf. "I love everything about the space, from the floor to the backsplash by the stove. It turned out to be everything I wanted and more."