



AFTER

NEW COUNTERTOPS, FIXTURES AND APPLIANCES UPDATE A COUPLE'S KITCHEN



AFTER

**AFTER:** From Fisher & Paykel, stainless double dishwasher drawers function easily with the proximity of the nearby island and save energy and water by allowing one drawer of dishes to be washed at a time.

# Adios, Eighties



BEFORE

**AFTER:** (Above) New stainless appliances, a farmhouse sink and bridge faucet, scored bead board backsplash, mismatched stained butcher-block and marble counters update this once-tired kitchen. Paint brightens the walls and sets off the existing white cabinets and moldings.

**BEFORE:** (Left) Too many accessories, hard-to-reach cookbooks, busy floral curtains, charcoal Corian countertops, tile backsplash and dated appliances were spoiling this kitchen's possibilities.

## Judithe and Les Little called me to assist them

with their kitchen redo after helping them with their dining room makeover. As a result, I understood their likes and dislikes.

“When I began seeing my kitchen appliances in reruns of ’80s television shows, I knew I had to do something,” Judithe says with a laugh. She had lots of ideas, but she wasn’t sure how to actually get it done. The couple felt the kitchen layout was good, but the countertops and appliances were dated. They also were considering switching to a gas range and wanted to create open shelving to show off glassware and dishes Judithe had admired in magazines.

### PRACTICAL COUNTERTOPS

She showed me pictures of kitchens she liked. All had vintage styling: bead board walls, a farmhouse sink and bridge faucet, stainless appliances and butcher-block or white marble counters. Because of their three children and busy lives, I tried to discourage the use of marble and proposed Okite nonporous manmade marble instead.

**tip>** Real marble etches and stains with acidic foods like cranberry juice, tomatoes, limes, lemons and wine.

Instead, I suggested she use more practical, inexpensive Ikea stained butcher-block counters on the main countertops in the kitchen and splurge on a marble look-alike for the island. Because she really wanted natural marble and went into it with eyes wide open, Judithe selected white Carrara marble on the island with an ogee edge installed by River Oaks Marble & Granite.

**tip>** Ikea butcher block can be stained using “Ebony” Minwax stain and sealed with General Finishes’ Arm-R-Seal in “Satin,” a wipe-on urethane from Rockler Inc. It takes several coats of each.

They wanted a blue and yellow kitchen and selected Benjamin Moore’s “Wythe Blue” for the walls and “Palladian Blue” for the ceiling. The nearby breakfast room is painted Pratt & Lambert’s “Golden Straw” with the same “Palladian Blue” ceiling.

### NEW APPLIANCES

I explained to Judithe that since counter-depth refrigerators are narrower but taller, this could mean sacrificing the narrow cabinet above the refrigerator. A real built-in would require work on the furdown, which would add to the cost of the project.

After research, Judithe knew she wanted a stainless Jenn-Air refrigerator (from The Great Indoors) to “look” built in. After measuring carefully, I gave her the correct size to buy and suggested she build in flush wine storage above it in place of the old cabinet.

Since she wanted to make the switch from an electric to a gas range, I explained the microwave vent system she was using would be inadequate for the heat of a gas cooktop and that she would need to run a gas line to the new range. By moving the microwave to the side in the existing cabinet, I offered her a couple of options: She could install either a more powerful, under-cabinet Broan vent or buy a Jenn-Air dual-fuel downdraft pro-style range with a stainless back guard, venting it to the outside window wall.

Judithe already had decided on new stainless Fisher & Paykel dishwasher drawers, so the couple chose to replace their microwave with a new matching stainless GE Profile microwave, all of which came from K&N Appliance Sales. She ordered a new Rohl Shaw’s Original ▶

# Before you install it, get the protection that lasts.



Like non-stick cookware, ShowerGuard™ Glass by Guardian™ Industries is permanent and easy to clean. Get the ONLY permanent protection product available; no special cleaners, no messy reapplication, no problems. Ask for it by name at these fine dealers.

<b>Able Glass &amp; Mirror Co., Inc.</b> Conroe • 77301 936-756-4115	<b>Allied San Jacinto Glass</b> Beaumont • 77701 409-833-9433	<b>Dauphin Sales, Inc.</b> Houston • 77024 713-522-3418
<b>De Sola Glass</b> Spring • 77379 281-370-6880	<b>Designer Bath &amp; Kitchen, LLC</b> Houston • 77043 281-944-2000	<b>Heights Glass, Inc.</b> Houston • 77008 713-861-3729
<b>Katy Glass</b> Katy • 77492 281-371-4350	<b>League City Glass &amp; Mirrors</b> League City • 77573 281-332-6631	<b>Lone Star Glass Inc.</b> Houston • 77005 713-661-0091
<b>Milstead Glass Co., Inc.</b> Magnolia, • 77354 281-367-3311	<b>Mirror Gallery, Inc.</b> Houston • 77070 281-893-6922	
<b>Southern Mirror &amp; Shower Door</b> Houston • 77055 713-973-9282	<b>RainTree Glass &amp; Shower Doors</b> Shenandoah • 77385 281-367-1141	

[www.showerguardglass.com](http://www.showerguardglass.com)



trade secrets

- **Think outside the box.** With a little dark wood stain and elbow grease, prefab IKEA butcher-block counters can mimic solid mahogany slabs.
- **Do your research** before you buy appliances. One site, [www.consumerreports.com](http://www.consumerreports.com), costs \$4.95 per month and is an excellent place to start.
- **Think “green.”** Existing kitchen cabinets can be painted and doors removed, instead of discarded.
- Sometimes the most effective strategy is to not gut your kitchen, but to **rethink the cabinets that are already paid for.**

**AFTER:** Simply removing the existing cabinet doors created inexpensive open shelving to display the owners’ collection of white ironstone. An inexpensive, \$6.99 “Grundtal” pot rack from Ikea displays the owners’ pots and pans on the new, scored bead board backsplash.

**BEFORE:** The owners’ collections were hiding inside cabinets and the white microwave was crowding the range top. The busy ceramic tile was the same color as the cabinets.



Fireclay Apron Sink (#RC2418) white farmhouse sink and Rohl Tuscan Brass Bridge Tap (#ROH-A1419) at a discount from [www.qualitybath.com](http://www.qualitybath.com), which changed the entire look of the kitchen.

STORAGE SOLUTION

Since Judithe desired a place to hang her pots and pans, the solution was to remove the upper cabinet over the range and purchase an Ikea pot rack that mounted to the bead board wall. Judy also wanted open storage to display her glasses and dishes.

**tip>** By simply removing the doors from the existing cabinets on the stove wall, her open storage wish was fulfilled.

ON BUDGET

Ultimately, Judithe and Les were able to achieve their dream kitchen on budget. “We really love our kitchen,” Judy says. “I still look at it and think about how much I love it. Left to my own devices, I probably would have made expensive mistakes, but I look around and I see no flaws.”



**JOETTA MOULDEN** offers home makeovers using your own home furnishings to create the home you’ve always dreamed of. Joetta believes your pieces that have been collected through the years are a reflection of your personality and can be artfully arranged.

Her ability to focus on your personal style and not let her own preferences influence the design of your home makes her unique. See more

makeovers on her Web site at [www.shelterstyle.com](http://www.shelterstyle.com), e-mail her at [joetta@shelterstyle.com](mailto:joetta@shelterstyle.com) or call 713.461.2063. Shelterstyle.com recently was given a “Pages of Happiness” rating and “Super Service Award” presented to the rare 5 percent of companies that achieve and maintain a superior rating on [www.angieslist.com](http://www.angieslist.com), a word-of-mouth network for satisfied consumers.



**ANTIQUES  
& INTERIORS**

Over  
12,000 Sq. Feet  
40 Dealers

Antiques  
Fine Accessories  
Oriental Rugs

Tuesday-Saturday: 10-6  
Sunday: 12-5

3845 Dunlavy @ West Alabama • 713.522.6996

**CLASSIC CHAIRS.COM**

678.624.1760 • 866.624.1760



Classic Furnishings for Your Home  
Offering Custom Seating – Casual to Formal, Modern to Traditional  
[www.classic-chairs.com](http://www.classic-chairs.com)



**Paradise HOME IMPROVEMENTS**  
Come Home to Paradise

Windows

Patio Doors

Attic Radiant Barrier

Roofing

Patio Covers

Exterior Painting

Siding

Kitchen Remodels

BBB MEMBER

**713-462-1850**

9000 Clay Rd., Suite 126 • Houston, TX 77080  
All Major Credit Cards Accepted

**Over 20,000 Frames at Factory Direct Prices!**

Ready-Made Frames • Custom Framing • Framed Mirrors • Moulding • Prints • Oil Paintings



**WAREHOUSE Frames 'N GALLERY**

713-974-6000  
3815 Fondren Rd.  
(BETWEEN RICHMOND & WESTPARK)  
[www.warehouseframes.com](http://www.warehouseframes.com)



RICHMOND AVE.  
LIPAN ST.  
Westpark St.  
FONDREN RD.

MasterCard Open To The Public • Mon-Fri 10-6, Sat 10-5 • Commercial Accounts & Designers Welcome

