

# Encore Cabinets

The old ones had the wrong look, they were in the wrong place, and they were too good to toss

**K**ristina Garrels and Scott Anderson had a clear idea of what they wanted in their revamped kitchen, but they were finding it surprisingly hard to get somebody to build it. The hiccup was the cabinets. They weren't very old. They were well built, and Kristina and Scott wanted to repurpose them with new doors and drawer fronts. But every contractor they met with wanted to gut the kitchen, throw out the cabinets, and start from scratch.

In addition to going counter to their recycling sensibility, gutting the kitchen would put it out of service. And as parents of two young children, they knew that losing the kitchen for any amount of time would be a big headache. Enter Dan Meyers.

Meyers runs a woodworking shop on the outskirts of Olympia, Wash., and he shares Kristina and Scott's reuse approach. Meyers refined their initial design, evaluated the existing cabinets, and figured out how to reconfigure some of them to work in a new arrangement.

Designer/builder: Daniel Meyers, [www.meyerswoodworks.com](http://www.meyerswoodworks.com)



**Problem:** Inefficient use of the dining space

**Solution:** An island provides room for a trash/recycle bin, the microwave, utensil drawers, sit-down dining for four, and homework activities.



**Problem:** Dark finishes and out-of-place cabinet detailing in a Craftsman house  
**Solution:** The existing cabinets were refaced with vertical-grain Douglas-fir veneer to match details in adjacent rooms, and new and old cabinets were fitted with fir doors and drawer fronts.

## "aha!" moment

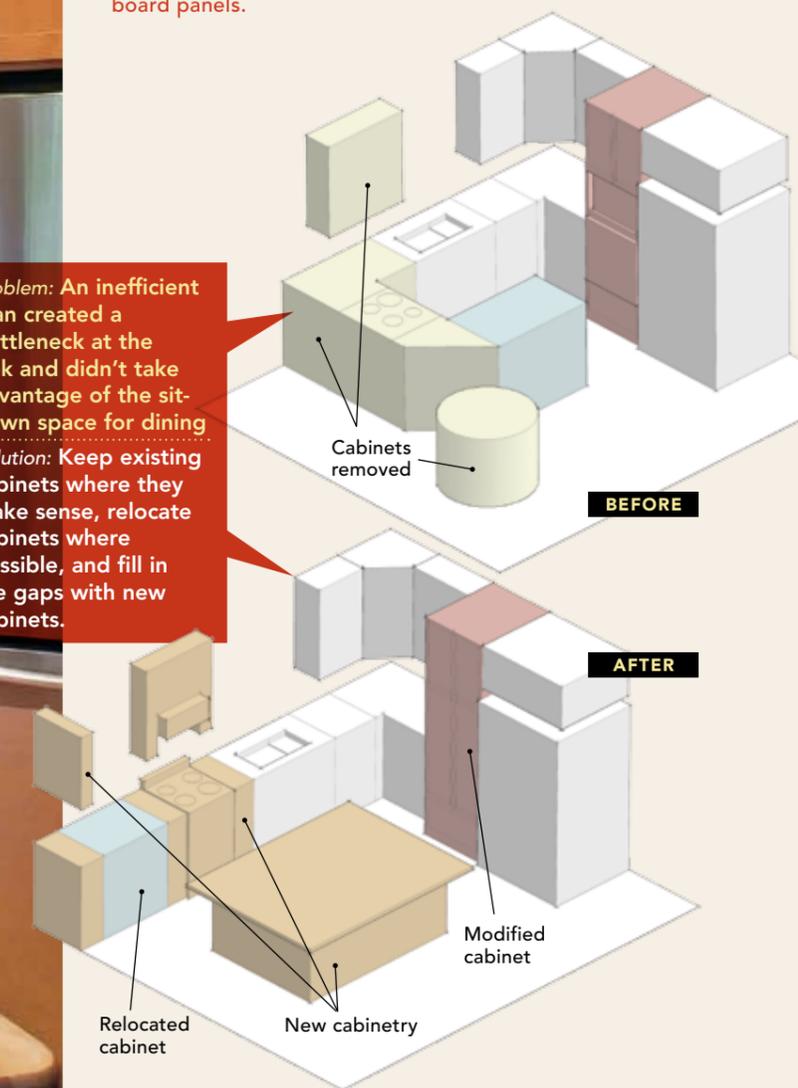
Keeping the kitchen functional during its makeover was imperative. To that end, not moving the sink and dishwasher solved part of the problem. Installing a new stove before decommissioning the cooktop and wall oven solved another. And coordinating subcontractors with the installation of the new sink and countertop had operation restored by dinnertime. During the entire job, there was never a day when the clients did not have a sink, stove, and refrigerator.

## Cool detail



The old wall-oven cabinet has been refitted with sliding shelves and a big drawer to serve as a pantry and small-appliance storage. The lower doors have cork message-board panels.

**Problem:** An inefficient plan created a bottleneck at the sink and didn't take advantage of the sit-down space for dining  
**Solution:** Keep existing cabinets where they make sense, relocate cabinets where possible, and fill in the gaps with new cabinets.



## Notable elements

Countertops [www.paperstone.com](http://www.paperstone.com) • Apollo brown cork flooring [www.apccork.com](http://www.apccork.com) • Blum tandem full-extension undermount drawer slides [www.blum.com](http://www.blum.com) • Rattan basket drawers [www.rev-a-shelf.com](http://www.rev-a-shelf.com)

"Before" photo, facing page: courtesy of Daniel Meyers. Other photos: Charles Miller. Drawings: Dan Thornton.