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Fresh Ideas for a Family Kitchen

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Kitchen Redo

The secret to this Seattle kitchen? Like a chef's best dish, it has great ingredients.

They could have waited, Brett Marl says, but that might have been a mistake. "Our second kid was on the way," says Brett, who, with his wife, Theresa Harris, and their two young children, lives in a tidy Craftsman bungalow on Seattle's Capitol Hill. "And our kitchen—it was one of those things we'd always wanted to change. We thought about it and were like, *Two kids? If we're going to do it, let's do it.*"

Their kitchen, Brett says, had plenty of potential but had "suffered this typical 1980s remodel." The room's original ceiling had been lowered, and a hulking wall of oak cabinets had been erected between the kitchen and the dining room. "It was just dark and oppressive," he says. "We wanted more light,

to open it up between the kitchen and the dining room, and to create a connection to the back garden. We wanted to be able to cook and make meals and still be able to keep an eye on the kids without them being right underfoot." They hoped to create a space respectful of their home's early-20th-century character, he says, but they also wanted a "modern update with a splash of funk." Key words on their long wish list: Asian. Industrial. Clean. Eclectic.

"Asian-industrial. I liked that," says Kim Clements, co-owner of JAS Design-Build, the Seattle firm brought in for the project. As the due date for the couple's second child grew near, Clements and her partner, Joe Schneider, tried to imagine

This Photo Brett Marl and Theresa Harris made their small kitchen more spacious by raising the ceiling, removing a poorly placed wall, and installing an island. **Opposite** Bold accents, such as teal metal stools, striped rugs, and a colorful pendant lampshade contrast against simple white millwork and cabinetry.



1.

The island's vibrant yellow base brings bold color to the mostly white kitchen. Complete with a cantilevered countertop and radiator, the island provides casual yet cozy stool seating.

2.

The Asian-inspired pendant lampshade adds a strong—but not dominating—vibrancy to this classic white kitchen.

3.

Natural light from the L-shape bank of windows effortlessly illuminates the kitchen. The wraparound windows also connect the kitchen to the back garden, allowing the homeowners to cook and watch the children play outside at the same time.

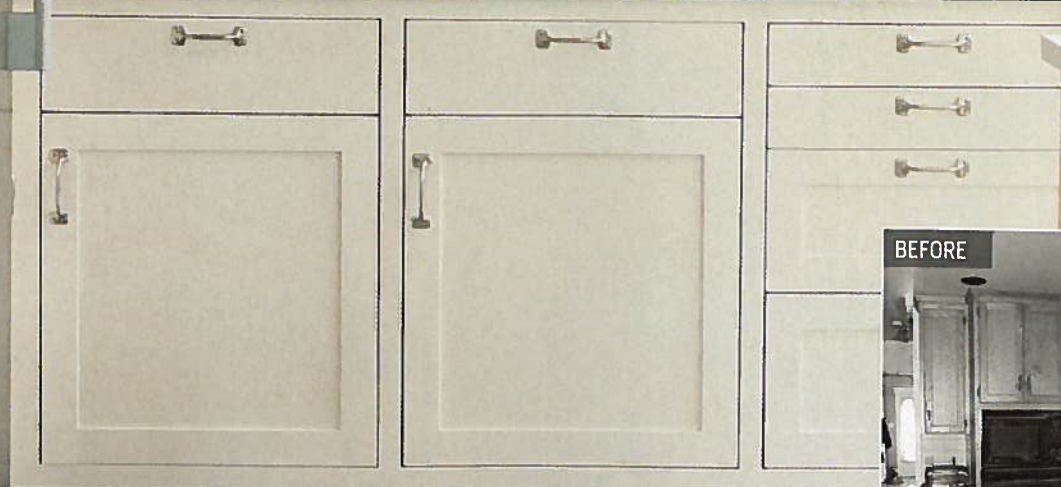
4.

The kitchen's understated hardwood flooring preserves traditional homeliness and is easily dressed up and softened with bright rug runners. The dark tone counterbalances the white walls, ceiling, and cabinetry.



View more colorful islands at BHG.com/islandstyle.





Brett and Theresa and their children in their home together. “We wanted to design a kitchen that would work for them as a family: crisp and clean and clutter-free as possible but still inviting and warm—a place people would want to hang out in,” Clements says.

So Clements and Schneider raised the ceiling, removed that stubborn wall, and wrapped an L-shape bank of windows—with transoms above—around the walls facing the backyard. They varied the new cabinetry, tailoring the layout, as well as the style (open shelves, fluted-glass fronts, solid-wood doors), according to their clients’ needs. They designed a new wall of built-ins, a floor-to-ceiling stretch that Clements calls the “hutch-pantry thing.” And finally, the team added the “funk”: a yellow island with a cantilevered quartzite top and teal metal stools; the stand-alone freezer, its side lined with a magnetic surface that doubles as a chalkboard; the faucet at the prep sink with its built-in light (“very entertaining for the 3-year-old,” Brett says); and the black soapstone countertop—so dark against the white.

Brett and Theresa are enjoying their new kitchen. Their younger one, Brett says, loves to bathe in the soapstone sink. And cooking with the kids around? So far, he says, it’s been easy—the boys can roam, yet they’re never out of sight. If there’s a downside, Brett says, “it would have to be that there’s so much room. There’s just a gluttony of space.” On second thought, he says, “We’ll probably get used to that, especially as the kids get bigger.”



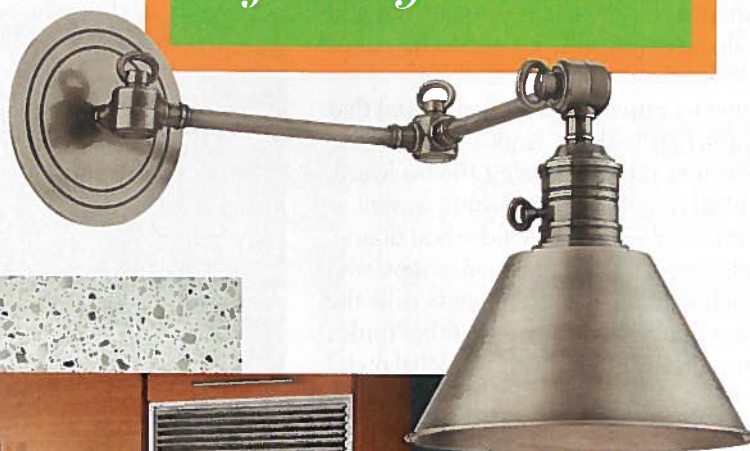
Above Right A radiator under the island countertop provides welcome warmth during winter months.

Far Right Clever built-in cabinetry conceals a full-length freezer in the pantry. **Opposite** Cabinets are a mixture of open shelves and fluted-glass-front cabinets, with a background of white tile walls and a black soapstone countertop.



These products can help you get the look of this fun and family-friendly kitchen.

With finishes in brass, nickel, and bronze, the Garden City Swingarm Adjustable Sconce, *above*, boasts an industrial look that would complement any kitchen appliance. \$415. barnlightelectric.com



This pearl white Chroma Quartz (BQ1080P), *above*, is not only strong and durable but also looks great as a kitchen countertop. Price upon request. pentalonline.com



Northland's 18-inch panel-ready All Freezer, *above*, features a stainless-steel interior. \$3,846. northlandnka.com

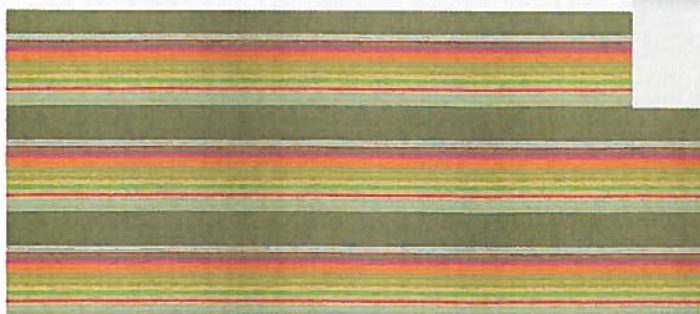
Available in Wedgewood Blue, Dove Gray, and Putty, Lyon Workspace's All-Welded Steel Stool, *below*, would suit any modern kitchen. Price varies depending on quantity and seat height. lyonworkspace.com





The Stacy Garcia Harvest Florence Giclee Shade, *above*, is available in four rich color combinations. Choose the combo that best fits your color scheme. \$69. lampsplus.com

The Sage Wall Sconce, *below*, expertly combines sophistication with simplicity. This product is available in black or white porcelain. \$135. schoolhouseelectric.com



The colorful Stone Soup Woven Cotton Rug, *left*, is durable enough for the entryway and pretty enough to use as a color accent in the kitchen. Price starts at \$30. dashandalbert.com

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