



An elegant, curving light fixture from Hubbardton Forge adds drama and a soft glow over the tiered walnut island.

Cabinetry reaching to the ceiling packs in maximum function and eye appeal, with helpful features like a concealed recycling center and mixer stand. Corbels over the kitchen sink keep the room feeling open. Pulls are Restoration Hardware's Ephram line.

New flooring in the dining room, kitchen and family room is rich, 4-inch walnut installed by Champion Hardwoods. Before, a hodgepodge of thin oak and carpet delineated lines between rooms; now the first floor feels like one unified space.

Countertops of Lagos Blue Caesarstone quartz, installed by Portland Marble Works, require no maintenance, withstand abuse from an active family of four and pick up varied earth tones in the soft roman shades, tile mosaic Oceanside Coppertone backsplash from Pratt & Larson. Devine paint in Macadamia (kitchen) and Green Tea in the dining room.

REALITY SHOW

WRITTEN BY AMY MASON DOAN PHOTOGRAPHY BY JON JENSEN

CORA AND DARRYL ADAMS LIVED IN THEIR PORTLAND home for five years before any major remodeling—long enough to become all too familiar with its quirks. It had many of the problems common among mid-1990s homes, like meager storage, skimpy counter space and grout galore. The oddly polygonal kitchen island fell under the “What were they thinking?” style of design.

“I couldn’t even tell you what shape that cooktop island was,” laughs Darryl. “But even worse than the weird shape was the fact that you had to go around it and to the outside the kitchen in order to prepare meals.”

With two young children underfoot, the kitchen’s layout made cooking a challenge, and the family room felt disconnected. So the family chose Mosaik Design & Remodeling of Portland to remodel and design the kitchen, family room and dining room of the 1995 house in the Bethany neighborhood. Designer Erin Davis worked with the Adamses to create a seamless, family-functional space throughout.

“It’s a true great room concept with a style that’s warm and comfortable but polished,” says Davis. “We wanted to create a home that would function beautifully now and as the kids grow older.”

Before, there was a huge no-man’s land of wasted space between the kitchen and family room, with the requisite carpet line proclaiming exactly where the kitchen ended and the family room began. By making better use of space under a bay window that had been designated an eating nook, knocking out one wall and extending the island, Mosaik delivered an open space with multiple gathering points that feel connected.

Now, a generously proportioned, tiered island encourages conversation during meal prep, the entry to the dining room is wider and more inviting, and a single, warm color palette unites the rooms.



BEFORE An oddly shaped island, dated materials and an awkwardly placed eating nook were just some of the problems Mosaik tackled in the redesign. The Adamses’ kitchen and family rooms had minimal storage space because cabinetry was all crammed to one side of the room and didn’t reach the ceiling.



The living room is still a cozy family gathering place, but now it doesn’t feel disconnected from the action in the kitchen. A built-in storage area around the living room home theater looks refined and complements the rich woods and mossy fall colors throughout the home. Rugs are by Surya; framed photography is by Cora Adams.

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For style inspiration, Cora provided Mosaik with a favorite leaf-shaped art piece from the home. The autumn tones from the pottery leaf show up in the Lagos Blue Caesarstone countertop, the deep walnut floors, subtly glinting tile backsplash and the window fabric. "The earth colors tie the rooms together, and they also help bring the outdoors in a bit," says Davis. "You now notice the views into other rooms because we improved the sight-lines, so it was important to have a cohesive color palette."

Davis transformed the island from the eyesore of the room to a focal point. "We didn't want a big, industrial-looking monolith in the middle of this home," she says. "The bar height hides any dishes or mess from outside of the room, and it provides vertical interest." In the family room, the style is equally sophisticated but unfussy and still personal.

A custom entertainment and storage system in deeply stained wood looks polished while making it easier to corral clutter. The family has a fond nickname for their new L-shaped couch, softly upholstered in a durable fabric: the "Louch." A gently lit grouping of Cora's photographs adds punch to the walls.

Darryl, a project manager at Intel who knows a thing or two about deadlines, says he was most impressed that Mosaik delivered on the project within their promised five-month timeline and was very direct about which parts of the project would be most disruptive. The family lived at home every day except for when the floors were finished, preparing meals on a hot plate and microwave in their bonus room. But some inconvenient weeks were well worth it.

"We made homemade pizza the other night, and that's a perfect example of why the new design works so well for us," says Cora. "We mixed the dough in the Kitchenaid mixer, which is on its own lifting stand, proofed it in the new warming drawer, and had the dough and toppings all spread out on the counter space."

"That would never have even been possible before," says Darryl. "Now it's actually fun to have a lot of people in the kitchen area."

REMODELING CONTRACTOR & KITCHEN DESIGN
Mosaik Design & Remodeling, www.mosaikdesign.com

Kitchen Appliances: BASCO: Range & Range Hood; Dacor; Kitchen Plumbing Fixtures: Kohler; Countertop Materials: Caesarstone; Countertop Installation: Portland Marble Works; Hardwoods: Champion Hardwoods; Tile Materials Source: Pratt & Larson Tile; Lighting: Hubbardton Forge; Paint: Devine

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