

ASID Kitchen & Bath Tour 2011 Design Concept Statement

1802 Colfax Avenue South, Minneapolis

The stunning, completely renovated kitchen in this grand old home illustrates how to create a beautiful and super-functional kitchen. Deeply rooted in the home's historic character, it is updated for modern family life.

The owners of this Arts & Crafts style, Lowry Hill residence, built in 1907, wanted a highly-functional new kitchen that has a place for their young children. So out went the 1980s-era kitchen with its white plastic laminate cabinets that were a jarring contrast to the extensive, rich, oak woodwork of the rest of the main floor. The room was gutted: lowered ceilings, orange walls, and a counter peninsula that restricted circulation were removed.

The kitchen, rear entry, butlery, and powder room were completely redesigned and renovated, with many beautiful, thoughtful details, as you'll see. Some of them maximize the use of limited space. "We took advantage of every square inch," says the designer.

Our studio worked closely with the owners to design the project. It includes many custom designed and crafted features including lighting, glowing red birch cabinetry and woodwork, a built-in buffet, numerous art glass panels, slate flooring, and custom-color backsplash tile. The original ceiling height was restored.

A geothermal heating and cooling system was installed; its high-velocity forced air pipes are discreetly located behind wood grilles in the cabinetry.

The rear entry adjacent to the kitchen is the primary entrance used by the family, yet there was practically no storage there. We added closet cabinetry and a built-in bench on one side of the butlery and a dishwasher, sink, wine refrigerator, and a coat closet on the other, greatly increasing the space's functionality. There's also cabinetry with pull-out recycling bins.

The powder room was completely renovated, with fixtures and finishes related to the rest of the project. The doorway was widened and the layout changed to make better use of space. Custom-made light fixtures with blown glass shades highlight the stenciling and amazing woodwork.

Our goal was to create a welcoming and comfortable kitchen that meets the owners' needs and is functional, beautiful, and fitting of the home's historic character. Please come see the result. The combination of many thoughtful features and details, larger-scale planning, and carefully crafted execution make for a winning design.