

ASID Kitchen & Bath Tour 2011 – Design Concept Statement, 635 Heinel Drive, Roseville, MN

Built originally in 1977, this four-level single family home still occupied by the original homeowners has been redesigned as an aging-in-place property. Now empty-nesters, unwilling to downsize and give up their premium Twin Cities lakefront location, the homeowners were looking for a design concept that would allow their house to fit their needs as they transition into their golden years. Kristen Sheikh, Principal Designer / Owner of Bruit de la Mode, Inc. took on the challenge readily, making innovative choices to reconfigure and optimize the home for a client planning for their future.

The kitchen of this lakefront location transitioned from a traditional 1970's typical u-shaped kitchen with a dropped ceiling, fluorescent lighting and oak cabinets into a luxurious, spacious heart of the main level space. Previously, the kitchen consisted of a tight cooking area with a space for a small kitchen table. Kitchen storage was meager, supplemented by a storage pantry two floors below that also housed an additional refrigerator and chest freezer. With Sheikh's reconfiguration changes, the new design of the kitchen now makes the most of the beauty of the location as well as increases the efficiency of the space. Featuring ample cupboard space, a high-end full size freezer and full size refrigerator and a spacious center island, the kitchen is now unified with the former main level family room, creating a great room which allows optimal space for entertaining. This also features the view of the sparkling blue waters of Lake Owasso, allowing the kitchen to be filled with the western exposure sunshine and beautiful sunsets.

A great concern in the design was taking into consideration what factors may be in place for the homeowners ten years in the future. Doorways and walkways have been widened to be wheel-chair friendly, and the former powder room was turned into a spacious walk-in pantry, eliminating the need for the client to have to walk down two flights of stairs to fetch something in the old pantry. A new full bathroom with a roll-in shower has been created on the main level to ensure a floor plan that enables daily life activities all on one floor. An opening linking the kitchen to a lower level entertaining space was created to allow interaction between the two spaces, should someone have challenges going down stairs to the lower level. To ensure a timelessness in the design, high end finishes were used – custom cabinets, marble and chef quality appliances to ensure that this kitchen is useful for its users for many years to come.