

DESIGN DILEMMA

SOLVED

If seeing is believing, checking out this amazing kitchen transformation will leave no doubt in your mind that a good interior designer can save even the seemingly most hopeless room in your home.

Charleston-based interior designer Sandra Gaylord shares her secrets to whipping this culinary space into shape.



THE DILEMMA The homeowners originally inherited this home—a 60s ranch house—when it came with a business they purchased. They decided to make the home their primary residence so they could be close to work.

THE REQUESTS Since the homeowners have a huge extended family that always gathers at their home, they wanted an open floor plan that would connect the essential living areas—the den, the dining room, and the kitchen. They wanted everyone to be connected visually (no matter which area they were in) and to be able to have seating. Special requests? The husband wanted a bar instead of an island, and they needed both a butler's pantry for storage and an office area for working.

THE PLAN Remove all the walls between the old kitchen, formal dining room, den, formal living room, and entry hall. The original kitchen would become the new butler's pantry, using the existing plumbing for the new sink. A desk would be added for office space, and a tall storage cabinet would be installed beside the desk to block office paraphernalia. The original formal dining room would now become the kitchen and be connected with the new butler's pantry.

THE RESULT The load bearing walls that were removed became an opportunity to incorporate the solution into the design. By adding the I-beams below the ceiling line and linking each beam to a column, it kept the floor plan open but also created 'separate' rooms. By using the slim columns, it gives the illusion of a higher ceiling. Sandra also added a window seat under the smaller window in the space, which helped delineate the kitchen from the dining room but still keep the areas connected.

For more information, call Sandra at (843) 327-4635 or visit gaylorddesignllc.com.

