

Perspectives

Before & After



✿ The pros tasked with revamping the tiny condo kitchen didn't have a lot to work with. Quite literally. At only ninety square feet, space was at a premium. Not only was the footprint small, but the building itself had constraints—like ceilings that couldn't be raised and ducts

that couldn't be moved—to contend with. The owner enlisted Kurt Hakansson of Hakansson Design Group and Jaye Gordon, now with Interiolog Design Co., to reimagine the room.

The kitchen harkened back to another era, says Hakansson. "It was from the days when people pretended they didn't have a kitchen and hid it. We wanted to invite it back into the space and make it integral to the home." The first step:

the old white laminate

cabinets and countertops, black appliances, and worn floor tile had a date with the dump.

Before they tackled fixtures and finishes, Hakansson and Gordon eliminated a three-foot-wide wall to create a larger opening from the kitchen to the living room. "By extending the kitchen to the HVAC ductwork, its natural ending spot," explains Gordon, "we were able to incorporate a full-size fridge and

an integrated pantry." A built-in cabinet to the right of the new opening, designed to mirror the kitchen cabinetry, balances the expansion. Chrome legs and a gray Caesarstone top make it feel like furniture and work nicely with the living room decor.

The duo also lowered the ceiling in front of the fridge to match the soffit in the kitchen and bring unity to the space.

Gordon designed the lower cabinetry of rift-cut oak that has been frosted then glazed, allowing the grain to show through, while the uppers are white-lacquered for a bright, airy feel. Notably, the designers eliminated the cabinetry above the sink. In its place is a beautiful large-format porcelain tile that lends movement and texture.

Rounding out the remake: white Caesarstone countertops, a new wood floor, a wall oven, and a seamless induction cooktop.

The homeowner wanted a change, and what he got, thanks to a savvy design team, is a user-friendly, gorgeous, and award-winning (it racked up a 2018 National Kitchen and Bath Association Design Award) space. ■

RESOURCES: For more information about this home, see page 234.



PROJECT TEAM

Interior design:

Kurt Hakansson,
Hakansson Design Group,
and Jaye Gordon, now
with Interiolog Design Co.

Builder: Steve Simms,
Simms Construction

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