



Making the Old New Again

Your home should be a reflection of who you are and what you love most, and if it's not—well, that's why you remodel. These professionals helped homeowners transform iffy spaces into dream rooms.

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Photos by JASON STEMPLER

HOW DO YOU MODERNIZE AN ORIGINAL 1957 KITCHEN without losing its original character? That's exactly what Classic Remodeling & Construction aimed to answer for a West Ashley couple recently. As the second owners of the home, the new residents realized their kitchen needed updated appliances, better functionality and a modern refresh—but a part of them wanted to maintain its classic feel.

"What really drove the project is everything in the kitchen was original, even the wood cabinets. The homeowners loved it, but just wanted to update it," says Christy Ammerman, Project Coordinator for CR&C—a design build firm on Johns Island that focuses on remodels, mainly kitchen and bath. "The idea was to go with a wood cabinet that had the same feel, but looked a little more modern."

The original kitchen layout included a peninsula that jutted out from the edge of the counters and cabinets, "and you don't really see too many homes with peninsulas these days. A lot of people are looking for the stand-alone

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island," Ammerman notes. Since the new homeowners enjoy cooking and entertaining, they wanted an island that was functional but

also in the center of the kitchen so guests could sit around it and be social. To marry both concepts, the cooktop was added into the island on one side and seating on the other.

To offset the natural wood cabinets, the owners chose a white coarse island. CR&C then installed stainless steel appliances and open-faced cabinets to make the room feel more modern. "The shelves are very minimal. It's a rather small kitchen so having full uppers would make the space feel more enclosed," Ammerman explains. "The open-faced design gives the owners the storage space they need and still allows the space to feel light."

As for natural light, the window over the sink remained, as well as the original back door (which was stained to match the cabinets). The double window beside the peninsula was removed, however, and updated into French doors that access the deck. "Additionally, we opened the wall more between the dining room and the kitchen," Ammerman says, to allow for even more space and light.

To create a better flow for the work triangle—the sink, stove and refrigerator—CR&C moved the refrigerator across the room for better functionality and ease of use. They then added a convection microwave above the oven.

Says Ammerman, "Today, people focus more on functionality and storage, as well as being a little more efficient than they used to when this house was built."

