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HOME

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room service

The Heart of the Home



Beth Keim

Tricey and Doug Edwards had a decision to make, to gut or not to gut (their kitchen). That was the question. The kitchen, as we all know, is the heart of the home, the gathering place. We also know it can be the most expensive room to re-do. I explained, to the best of my ability, the pros and cons of a “face lift” vs a “gut job.”

A face lift often accomplishes all your needs. You can leave the existing layout and “face” everything else. Cabinets can be painted, appliances switched out, floors changed out or refinished and of course paint, tile and furnishings. In many cases it can be all you need for a new, clean and fresh look for less. Our next consideration was major renovation - moving walls, new cabinets, switching to gas, maybe bumping the room out for additional windows. It’s a hard decision to make because as great as a face lift can be, we all really want the blow out, something totally new.

My only advice is this, if the budget allows and it’s the only major

thing left on your home renovation list - go for what you really want.

Step One: Call a pro. For this project Jeanine DeVaney of Charlotte In-Vironments was our go-to for all her great ideas, resources and expertise with space reconfiguration and new cabinets. She worked with the Edwards on layout, adding a new island, changing to gas, cabinet style, appliances and tile.

Step Two: Icing and color. Deciding on color and overall feel was the next step and we wanted a monochromatic look with a splash. For this particular job and with the location leading into three other rooms, I suggested coordinating the walls, cabinets and trim work in similar colors. Our splash was the accent wall paper and fabric, used sparingly, yet with a big impact. The Edwards had a great bay window and round dining table. I wanted that as our major focus. Built-in banquets or curved benches are great space savers and work beautifully with a bay window. Keeping in mind that kids can be messy, use fabrics that are easy to clean. Vinyls come in a variety of colors and textures these days and most other fabrics can be vinylized. Kitchens can be so hard, playing up the table and window area is the main way to soften a kitchen. Think about adding a few glass doors to some of your cabinets, but then



Ashley Goodwin Photography



display with just a few similar items like a sampling of your plates, a vase and just a few of your prettier cookbooks.

Step Three: Cut the clutter. If at all possible, try finding a home for most of the on-counter small appliances when designing new cabinets. A clean counter really shows off your new beautiful back splash.❖

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