



**LEFT:** Butcher block on the island warms the entire kitchen, brightened by flowers from the homeowners' garden. **OPPOSITE:** New open cabinets and crown molding enhance storage and style in the U-shape cooking zone.

## *show time*

Open cabinets and shelving add practical storage and display space to an efficient kitchen—and give the cooking zone a fresh new look.

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Open wine cubbies put space above the refrigerator to work and break up a wall of cabinetry.

**THIS PHOTO:** A glass cooktop keeps a low profile on the island, and its location is convenient to both the sink and the refrigerator.  
**OPPOSITE:** A stainless-steel sink mounted under a honed black granite countertop replaced a well-used white porcelain one.

## *hunting and gathering*

beautiful items is the best part of the job for decorator Anne Casher. "I love to explore in junk shops and antiques stores," she says, "because that's where the great finds are—

accessories that with a little vision can become one-of-a-kind pieces." Anne's talent for spotting uncommon treasures doesn't just benefit her clients. She used the same skills in updating the kitchen in her family's 20-year-old Connecticut Colonial.

"We bought the house as newlyweds," she says, "but being young, naïve, and on a slim budget, we didn't put in the extras that we've since realized we want." And so began a series of room renovations that culminated in a thoughtful kitchen update—one that showcases the white ironstone dishware Anne collects, as well as other found and repurposed items.

Conscious of costs, Anne and her husband, Richard, kept the U-shape kitchen's highly functional layout intact and retained the neutral stone tile floor. The clean white cabinetry also stayed but was updated with key additions—open-front units near the ceiling to display ironstone, crown molding for a custom look, and built-in cubbies above the refrigerator for beverage storage. The island's original base cabinet was awkwardly angled, so it too got an update—where the angle had been, squared-off open shelving now shows off collected pieces.

Aiming for a more custom look, the Cashers allotted the bulk of their budget dollars to new stainless-steel appliances, honed black granite countertops, and a glistening glass tile backsplash in grayish green. On the island, a white tile countertop gave way to a more functional slab of butcher block that complements the room's warm and inviting look. New pendant lights over the island also enhance the kitchen's style and function.

"We didn't need to do a full kitchen renovation, but the changes we made were huge in how it looks and functions—and they're timeless," Anne says. "Before, I didn't enjoy working in our kitchen, but now I love being in it."

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# budget

## Appliances

|              |       |
|--------------|-------|
| Cooktop      | 1,568 |
| Dishwasher   | 953   |
| Ovens        | 2,119 |
| Refrigerator | 2,755 |
| Vent         | 1,206 |
| Wine cooler  | 1,165 |

## Cabinetry

|                               |     |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Hardware                      | 150 |
| Open cabinets/island shelving | 900 |

## Surfaces

|                                  |       |
|----------------------------------|-------|
| Backsplash tile, installed       | 2,163 |
| Butcher block, installed         | 600   |
| Paint                            | 100   |
| Perimeter countertops, installed | 2,753 |

## Plumbing

|        |     |
|--------|-----|
| Faucet | 350 |
| Sink   | 480 |

## Miscellaneous

|                |     |
|----------------|-----|
| Pendant lights | 750 |
| Window         | 500 |

**Total** **\$18,512**

*Costs do not include labor unless noted.*



An efficient U-shape floor plan gained extra storage and display space with open cabinets and a squared-off island.

## about this makeover



**OPPOSITE:** At the end of a run of cabinets, a little-used desk space made way for open shelving and a wine cooler. **ABOVE:** Pendant lights above the island are trimmed in the same muted metallic finish that appears on the kitchen's new appliances, sink, and cabinet hardware. **LEFT:** Once angled, this corner of the island was squared off and endowed with open shelving for extra display space. A finely turned pilaster adds architectural interest.