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PRODUCT SHOWCASE: HOME INSPIRATION

A *beautiful* KITCHEN
THAT PUTS FAMILY FIRST



SAME HOME, NEW NEEDS

by SASCHA LAFLEUR

Sooner or later, every growing family faces the tough decision to relocate to a new home or renovate their existing home to meet their changing needs. Perhaps that starter home that was so perfect when you first bought it a few years back, now falls short on space and style. That's exactly where my clients – a young family of five – found themselves when they engaged our firm to find a practical and beautiful solution to some persistent "problem areas."

end, here's what I did to deliver the clients' asks.

I began the transformation by gutting the existing kitchen and repositioning the appliances to create a more efficient flow. I relocated the laundry room and powder room to make way for a

butler's pantry, which houses a second refrigerator and some small appliances. To tackle the family's storage needs and make the most of the space available, I extended the upper cabinets to the ceiling and finished them with classic shaker-style doors.

The *kitchen* had to be practical, easy-maintenance and offer an eat-in area for the three busy boys to grab a bite before rushing off to hockey practice

The kitchen is where all the daily action (and chaos!) happens, so it's no surprise that this space landed on top of the list. Our clients had a definitive wish-list: The kitchen had to be practical, easy-maintenance and offer an eat-in area for the three busy boys to grab a bite before rushing off to hockey practice. "Oh, and don't forget to make it look pretty!" To that





tips

SEATING IS AN IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION WHEN PLANNING A KITCHEN ISLAND. HERE ARE SOME STANDARD MEASUREMENTS TO KEEP IN MIND:

- Allow at least 12-in of clearance beneath the countertop and seat, to make room for knees.
- If you're pressed for space, opt for counter stools that you can tuck away under the counter when not in use. Standard counter height is 36-in; the standard thickness is three cm.
- The size of the island will be dictated by number of people you need to accommodate. Give each person a 24-in. place setting, which accounts for the diner and their elbows. Standard dining depth is approximately 18 in.



An integrated range-hood was clad in a simple white MDF to match the floating shelves on either side; this draws attention to the cooking area and offers an artistic display for everyday and decorative items.

At the centre of the space is a large kitchen island, which serves as the main eating area. While an island is a popular request in many of our kitchen projects, it's not always the right choice. How do you decide? Ensure your kitchen is big enough to accommodate an island, plus some

additional room to manoeuvre around it. If your kitchen can't spare those extra inches, an island isn't the right solution for your space.

I applied a colour palette of navy blue, crisp white and grey, accented with natural wood details to bring warmth to the space. The backsplash needed to be easy to clean, so we opted for a classic subway tile in a light warm grey hue, which we carried up to the ceiling for a clean, bistro-style look. The tile colour warms up the walls and makes the

white shelves and white quartz countertops pop.

I finished this kitchen with two statement pendant lights in brass, which complement the copper-base stools beautifully. Finally, I rolled out a durable floor runner, for additional warmth and pop of colour.

This new kitchen is both beautiful and functional – well-equipped to meet the demands of this busy family. Every interior should reflect the personality of its owners, designed for longevity with mind.



Sascha Lafleur is the Co-Founder and Principal Designer at West of Main Design. This international award-winning Ottawa based firm provides complete residential and commercial design services throughout North America. Respected for creating thoughtfully layered, travelled designs that complement their client's lifestyles. westofmaindesign.com, @westofmain @westofmainshoppe

SOURCE: Custom **KITCHEN DESIGN** by West of Main | **TILE** from Olympia Tile | **WALL PAINT** in Gray Mist CC-80 by Benjamin Moore | **LIGHTS** from Wayfair | **GARDA RUNNER** from West of Main Shoppe |