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improving work zones

WRITTEN BY JEANNIE MATTEUCCI



BEFORE: While the range had counter space on each side, it was isolated from the other work areas.

AFTER: Gold-toned granite countertops and a textured backsplash with diagonal 4x4-inch off-white ceramic tiles add warmth to the new kitchen.

1 cooking for two

With both of their children now in college, a couple in Columbus, Ohio, decided the time was right to upgrade their tiny, closed-off kitchen. Wanting a more functional space that would allow them to whip up gourmet meals together, the couple turned to Ron Landis, president of the design/build firm R.J. Landis Design & Construction, of Worthington, Ohio. Moving the work triangle—the sink, range and refrigerator—was an important change. A pro-style, duel-fuel range now sits under the kitchen window, with an upgraded farmhouse sink in the old range's spot. The room's small size allowed Landis to place the new side-by-side stainless steel refrigerator on the opposite wall but only a few steps away. "We were able to take an old kitchen that had been remodeled inadequately through the years and make it into a modern, extremely efficient space," says Landis.

IN THE DETAILS

- ◆ **ARCHWAY** A large open archway now visually connects the kitchen to the adjacent dining room. The kitchen counter extends through the arch to create a bar on the dining room side. "Now the couple has a place to enjoy casual meals," says Landis.
- ◆ **MICROWAVE** Located under the counter between the range and sink, the built-in, drawer-style microwave conveniently loads from the top.
- ◆ **CABINETS** Eliminating a doorway created more wall space for cabinets. The upgraded, traditional-style maple cabinets feature crown molding, simple pewter hardware and a rich mocha glaze. Built-in pantry cabinets on each side of the refrigerator provide storage for pasta, cereals and other dry goods.
- ◆ **FLOORING** Landis replaced "about six layers of linoleum" with an oak floor. Its natural finish blends with the wood floors used in the adjoining dining room and other areas of the home.