



Righting Wrongs


IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG for Kris Wyrobek to realize something needed to be done to solve the problems he was having with his recently purchased home in south Minneapolis. "The kitchen was very chopped up," he says. "It had a separate pantry, a breakfast nook, and a kitchen area with all the amenities crammed into a 10-by-10-foot space."

Along with improved flow, Wyrobek had two other items on his wish list; first, he wanted a community

space for entertaining guests that could double as a family gathering spot and an improved entryway. The second item would eliminate a direct view from the front entrance of home to the kitchen's adjacent powder room. If the bathroom door was left open, the toilet was the first thing a person would see when entering the front door.

"We did everything we could to make the existing footprint of the kitchen seem bigger," says Rick Jacobson co-owner



 This kitchen remodel unified previously disparate kitchen, pantry, and breakfast nook areas.

of Bloomington-based Bridgewater Construction. “We gutted the kitchen, took the floor and ceiling out, and put everything back together.” Jacobson moved plumbing, removed part of a wall to create a pass-through to the main hallway, put in an island, and enlarged an archway. He also tapped into his creativity to duplicate the look and feel of existing products and finishes that would have been used in the late 1920s.

To eliminate the home’s eyesore, Jacobson changed the position of the powder room door so people now enter the partial bath from the back foyer, blocking the view of the powder room from the front entrance. The remodeler also tidied up the six sq. ft. rear foyer by removing five swinging doors, and replaced the powder room door with a pocket door.

Today, Wyrobek’s kitchen blends well with the grand 1920s Tudor architecture of the home and provides a wide-open feel without impinging on the home’s other spaces. “Rick Jacobson helped make the kitchen look as if it had always been there,” says Wyrobek. “Rick had a lot of great suggestions to help me right-size my expectations and manage the costs.”



Bridgewater Construction worked to duplicate the look and feel of products and finishes from the late 1920s, as reflected in the plaster work on this new pass-through wall.