

2011 RENOVATION WINNER | KITCHEN



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A FAMILY-FOCUSED RENOVATION

Bexley empty nesters Sam and Sharon Koon finally take time to update their kitchen.

Bexley residents Sam and Sharon Koon long considered the renovation of their small kitchen, before removing walls and replacing some beloved brick flooring.

Twenty-three years ago, Sam and Sharon Koon moved into their Bexley residence where they busily reared four children, anticipating the day when they would update their kitchen.

There wasn't much spare time back then, especially to consider a major renovation. But, today, with their four children in their 20s and living from downtown Columbus to Morocco, the Koons couldn't resist the urge to move forward.

The result is a winner as a traditional kitchen update in *Columbus Monthly's* Annual Renovation Competition. The Koons' kitchen is an excellent example of a renovation that met its ultimate goal of efficient use of space in a grand design.

As time has moved on, Linda—a substitute teacher in the Bexley schools—realized that she yearned for a kitchen where her now-adult children could gather when all were around. "What we wanted was a space where, when they were all at home, we could all talk," she says.

"The project grew," confesses her husband, who is a commercial realtor. He explained that the couple originally set out to replace double ovens that were no longer working. But after builder Steve Heinlein pointed out that all cabinetry along that wall would be replaced in the process due to the modern appliance sizes, the Koons surrendered to the obvious.

Together with Heinlein and interior designer Pam Yost, with whom Sam attended high school, a team was formed to take down walls, replace the kitchen's original herringbone brick flooring, which Sharon loved, and install more cherry cabinetry than Sharon could have ever imagined possible. Today, the woman of the house takes great joy in pulling out drawers and opening cabinets, sharing the efficient storage spaces that were created.

The Koons are thrilled with the square, granite-topped island, replete with cabinets and seating space for two. They love the way the builder shaped a semi-coffered ceiling over the space, and the lighting that Yost recommended for it. With a nearby round table that can grow to accommodate eight and an additional comfortable seating area, the two are happy to spend days and evenings here, watching television and enjoying their views beyond new windows and the home's original breezeway.