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kitchens

ALL ABOUT THE HOUSE

location

SAN FRANCISCO, CA

built

1950s

house style

VINYL-CLAD BOX

2,040 SQ. FT.

3 BEDROOMS

3 BATHS

go with the flow

A richness of materials makes a simple kitchen feel special.

WRITTEN BY JEANNIE MATTEUCCI PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAUL DYER

As design professionals, San Francisco architect Jonathan Feldman, AIA, and his wife, interior designer Lisa Lougee, create personalized spaces for their clients. So when they purchased a run-of-the-mill 1950s vinyl-clad box home perched on a lot with panoramic city views, they used their talents to transform the dated property into their contemporary family home. Rethinking the existing closed-off kitchen and opening it up to the rest of the house was a key change that made the entire home more livable. Walls between the kitchen, dining room and living room were removed to establish a strong connection and good flow between the kitchen and adjoining eating area used for family meals and entertaining guests.



NO LONGER SUITABLE The previous, dated kitchen had an awkward design and layout that offered little counter space or usable work area for preparing meals.



CREATE DISPLAY AREAS

High shelves added above the kitchen windows complement the home's horizontal lines, maximize light and offer open storage for dishes.



MIX MATERIALS

A custom island by Blank + Cables of Oakland, California (blankandcables.com), is part cherrywood and part stainless steel.

KEEP COOL

The large stainless steel Sub-Zero fridge with freezer on the bottom (subzero-wolf.com) fits the palette of steel, dark woods and muted walls.

DIVIDE AND CONQUER

A Bosch wall oven (boschappliances.com) frees the oven from the range. There's no need for a big stove in this small kitchen.

COMPROMISE

The couple wanted a walnut floor, but, to avoid an unforeseen delay in supply, chose a dark-stained oak—saving time and money.

TRANSFORM SPACES

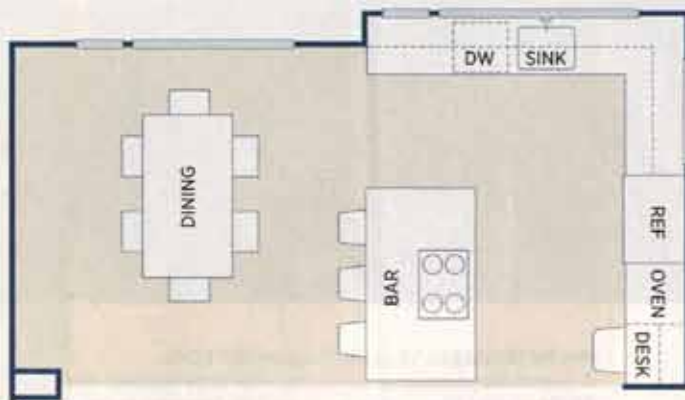
Located in the exact spot of the previous formal dining room, the now open and airy eating area is connected to the outside by a large-view window. "By removing walls, all the spaces feel more roomy," notes Feldman.



CREATE CLEAN LINES

The modern stainless steel sink and counters are fully integrated. "The sink is welded to the counters for a seamless design that is easy to keep clean," says Feldman. The contemporary faucet is from KWC (kwcamerica.com).

"We wanted the kitchen to be bright and open but have a richness of materials—not sterile or neutral." —Architect Jonathan Feldman



FLOOR PLAN The well-designed space allows the homeowners to enjoy views while cooking, visit with guests, pay bills at the integrated computer center, and have room for lots of storage.



CONTROL ODORS

The 5-burner Bosch cooktop on the island (boschappliances.com) has a handy pop-up backdraft that dispels odors and smoke.

INCREASE STORAGE

Roomy custom drawers from J&N Cabinets of San Francisco (415-333-8322) provide space for pots, pans and assorted linens.

QUIETLY EFFICIENT

Feldman says that in such a simple kitchen, stainless accents like this Bosch dishwasher (boschappliances.com) just felt right.

SPLURGE A LITTLE

White and gray 1" x 6" mosaic glass tiles (Repose collection from Waterworks, waterworks.com), add texture and refinement.

ADD RICHNESS

The dark-wood color of the modern custom cabinets "makes them recede, and makes the space feel larger," says Feldman.