

PROJECT: WALNUT & BLUE

CATEGORY: RESIDENTIAL INTERIOR
UNDER \$100,000

The homeowners of this St Paul split level home were ready for an update to their main floor living space.

They came to us with a vision for an open kitchen layout for entertaining and to have the new space reflect their personal style.



WHAT DID THE CLIENTS NEED?

- updated appliances in the kitchen
- more countertop space and efficient workstations for two cooks
- functional storage in the kitchen
- the design of the space to reflect their personal style
- somehow connect the living space to the kitchen with the removal of random walls
- design to keep a space for the upright piano
- updates to the tired stair railing and to expose side of treads to create a more open feel
- create an entertainment/drop zone space to keep friends and family out of the kitchen when hosting

DID WE ACHIEVE THAT? HECK YES.

- the layout we designed removed the kitchen walls
- there are three distinct work areas, prepping by the fridge, cleaning by the sink, and cooking at the island
- the homeowner's have a love for all things beautiful and fun – natural walnut cabinets with a pop of blue for whimsy
- bringing the main floor space together with the new layout, creating an entertainment area next to the piano for guests and family to help themselves
- new stair framing and railing, who knew such a small detail could bring such great rewards?

THE STORY CONTINUES

THAT'S GREAT. BUT HOW DOES THE NEW SPACE FUNCTION?

- an open floor plan was achieved by removing random walls and posts for better flow and accessibility
- large island that is both functional and beautiful
- smart storage solutions include a pullout spice rack, cutting board storage, trash and recycling in the island and fully accessible corner cabinetry
- secret storage incorporated in back side of island
- there are undermount lights and receptacles which provide subtle convenience
- the creation of a drop zone and entertaining area keeps clutter and guests out of the working areas of the new kitchen
- layered lighting – undercabinet, disc ceiling lights, awesome pendants – customizable illumination of the main floor complete with dimmers

GOT IT. FUNCTION IS EXCELLENT, BUT DOES IT LOOK GOOD?

- natural walnut cabinetry – need I saw more?
- rich deep blue cabinetry accents the inherent beauty of the natural walnut
- island vent hood with clean lines
- stacked mosaic tile from countertop to ceiling
- custom natural walnut floating shelves to keep the space from feeling heavy
- custom stair treads, handrail, and newels with spectacular wrought iron balusters

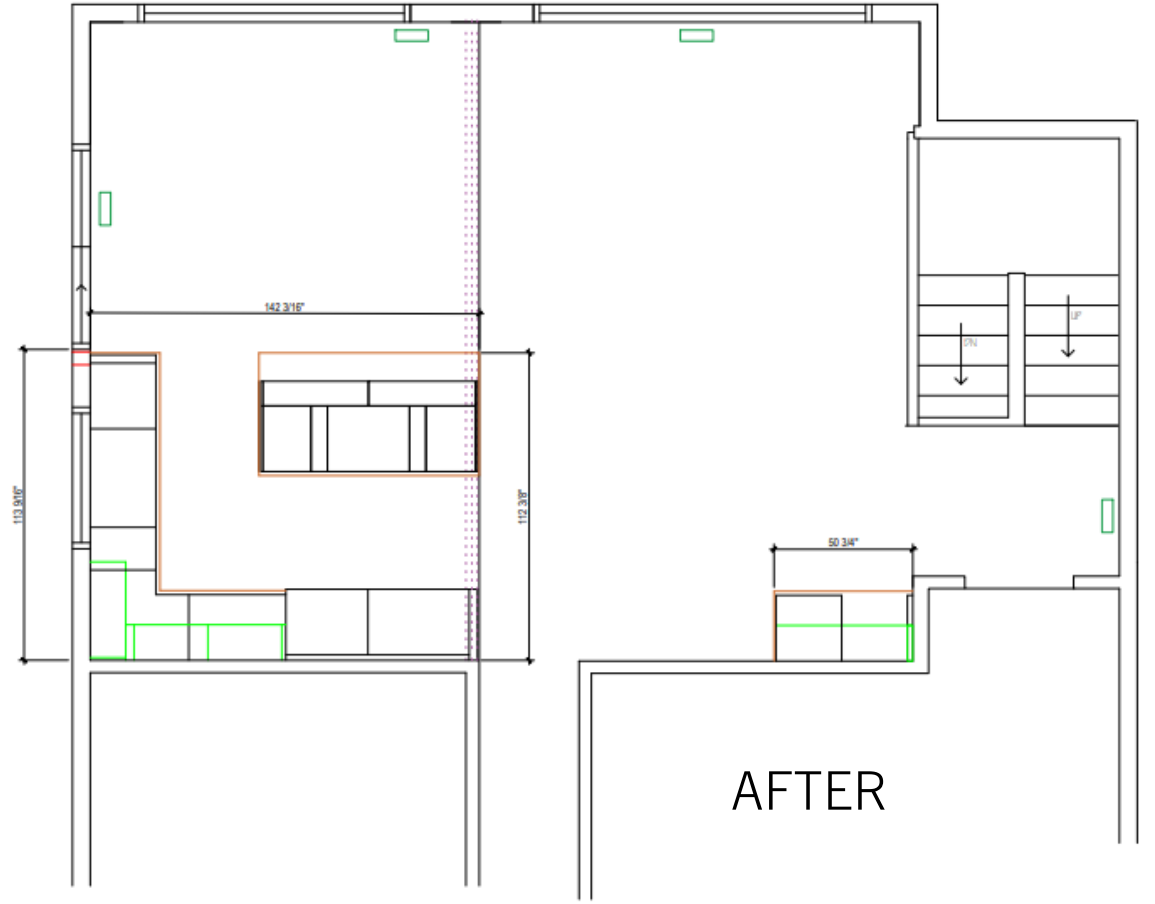
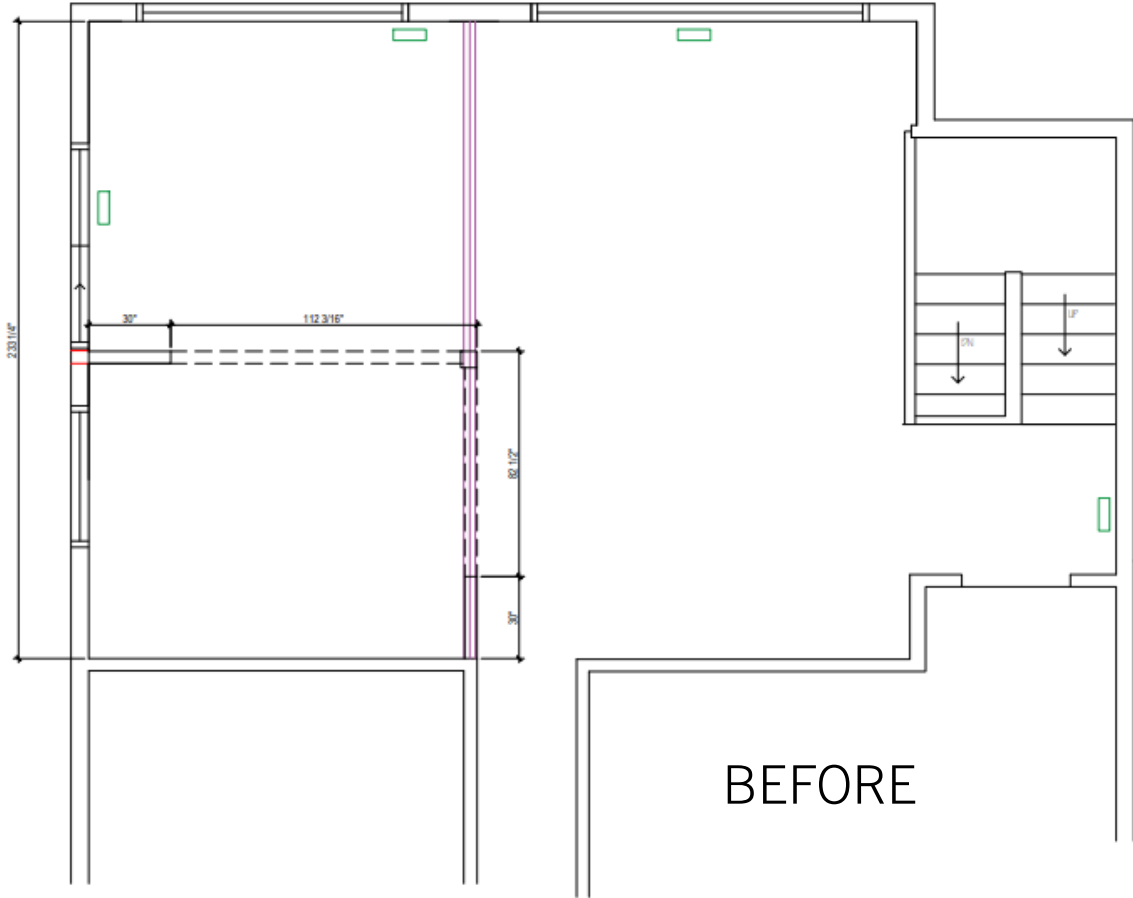
THE STORY HAS A HAPPY ENDING

WHAT MAKES THIS PROJECT SPECIAL?

- classic and clean look was created with European style frameless cabinets
- strip plugs installed on underside of upper cabinets give multiple outlet options while maintaining the aesthetics of the tile backsplash
- the custom-built stair treads and newels were crafted by our team to fit the specifications of the client's home
- custom frame on vaulted ceiling for vent hood installation
- scribing to the vaulted ceiling was a welcome challenge for our talented carpenters

THIS RENOVATION WENT ALL THE WAY THROUGH WITH NO HICCUPS, RIGHT?

- working with vaulted ceilings and not wanting to disrupt insulation by pulling down sheetrock, the lights had to be installed and connected to the existing wiring by fishing wires through the joists and existing insulation
- the ceiling heights between the dry bar and the kitchen were not the same but we wanted the spaces to continue as one visually
- we eventually placed cabinets to avoid conflict with vaulted ceiling and used stacked crown to match the overall heights
- the usual drama must happen right? somehow, somewhere someone walked on the newly finished stair treads and they had to redone. twice.
- the island countertop was another fluke of nature. our clients selected a specific piece of granite only to find out that the piece was not used for their island. a few hot conversations later, we had our island in place.



PLAN VIEW: BEFORE & AFTER



CONSTRUCTION RENDERINGS

BEFORE & AFTER PICS TELL THE STORY

BEFORE

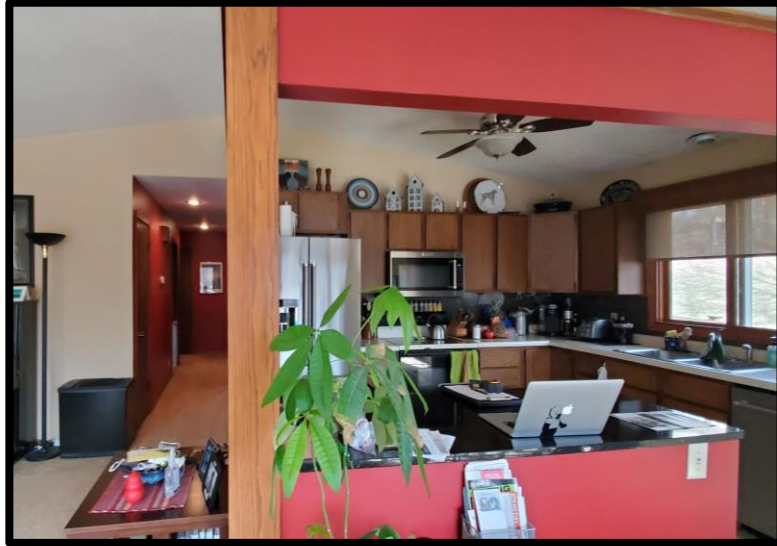


AFTER



BEFORE & AFTER PICS. truth.

BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE & AFTER PICS. #dang.

BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE & AFTER PICS: a railing reborn

BEFORE



AFTER

