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This Old House

IDEAS FOR
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SPACES

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Kitchen + Bath Special

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Kitchen-Plus Renovations

Beyond the cook space

With the kitchen devoted solely to cooking having gone the way of the butter churn, it's no wonder that today's kitchen remodels are multifunctional, too. More and more they include adjacent spaces—mudrooms, laundry areas, storage-packed seating nooks—that work just as hard. “With people spending more time than ever at home, they're rethinking how their homes function and seeing new possibilities,” says Airy Kitchens designer Sean Lewis. The resulting “kitchen-plus” renovations yield spaces that boost efficiency, sure, but are also more enjoyable to live with. Witness the projects below.

BY NINA MALKIN

Necessary extras



BEFORE Laminate finishes defined a kitchen that had virtually no upper cabinets. The peninsula was a magnet for everyday clutter.

Laundry—it's a dirty job, but it's gotta get done somewhere. For Lyla Duey and Dan Schultz, that meant a bare-bones space just outside the equally makeshift kitchen-dining area in their 1896 farmhouse in Elkins Park, PA. A peninsula hemmed in the cook space; bulky appliances crowded the laundry, with just enough space left for another necessity, a toilet closet.



Every inch counts Open to the now-smaller dining area, the enlarged kitchen has a clean and crisp “refined farmhouse” look, with an island at its center and cabinets that tap the full height of the 10-foot ceilings.

First order of business for Sharp + Grey Interiors designer Libby Rawes: Rework the kitchen to give it the breathing—and storage—room it needed, and create a comfortable dining area that easily fits the family of four. Turning her attention to the laundry, she moved the powder room to the back of the 77-square-foot area, clearing space for a stacked washer/dryer with a laundry sink and cabinets along the wall opposite.



Bigger is better “I love the big triptych window, which opens on both sides to let in fresh air,” Lyla says. “The large farmhouse sink makes it easier to wash dishes, too.” A beverage refrigerator is tucked into the 69-by-30-inch island, which has two stools at one end for snack time.

Dan’s reaction: “It can be fun and relaxing to hang out in the kitchen—who knew?” Adds Lyla of the three-part project, “The whole space feels bigger, functions better, and looks beautiful.”



Cleanup zones A stackable washer and dryer saves space, as does a pocket door to the powder room. "We love big family gatherings, and part of properly hosting is having an accessible bathroom where guests can fit comfortably and have privacy," Lyla says. The rooms' blue floor tile and white cabinets echo the kitchen colors. The laundry sink and butcher-block counter come in handy for party-prep overflow.



Dining in style In the light-filled eating area, a trestle table with four chairs sidles up to a 10-foot-long built-in storage bench to easily seat six.