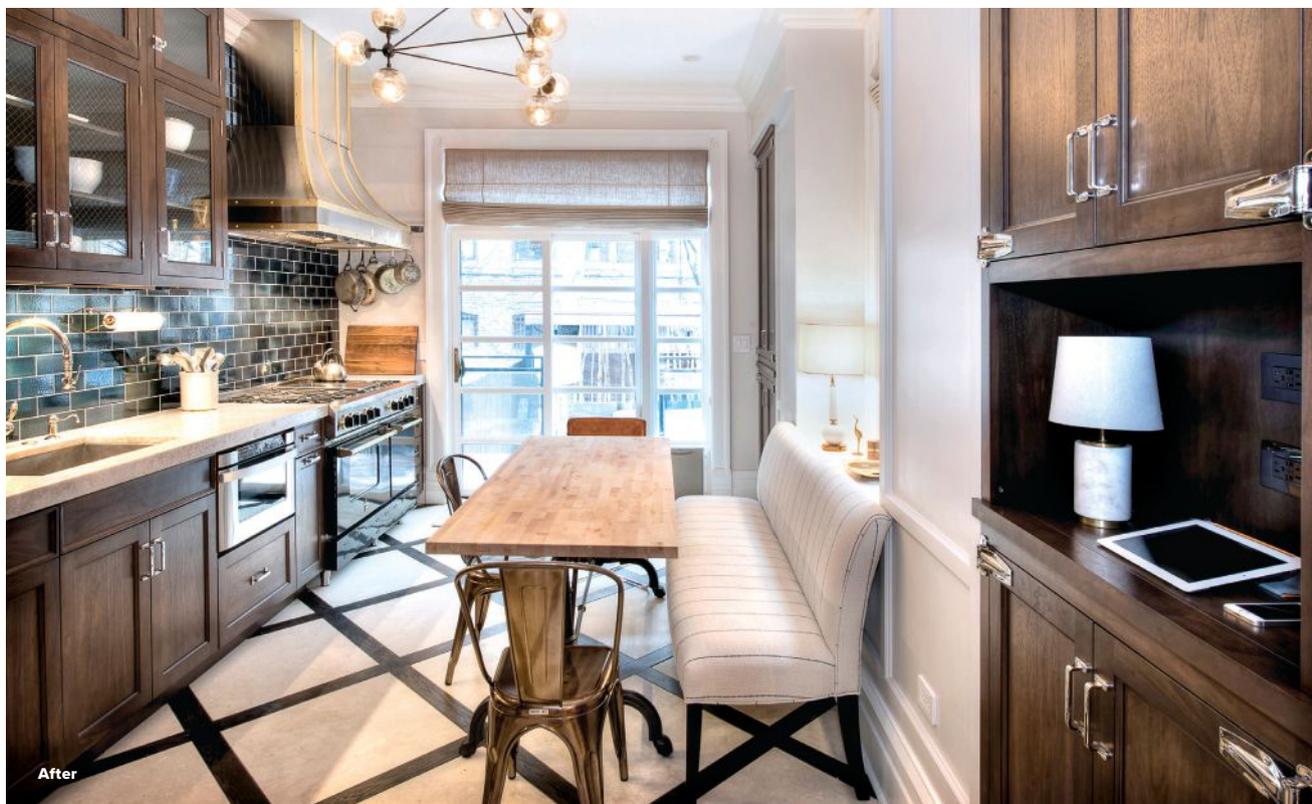


ROW HOUSE REDO

Bringing order to a chaotic Chicago townhouse

BY NIGEL F. MAYNARD



A couple with a charming Chicago row house faced the problem that most urban dwellers encounter: a cramped, poorly organized kitchen/living area that could use some updating.

Located on the north side of the city, the vintage row house sits on a quiet street and has a nice backyard. “It’s not a big house, but I think it’s the perfect size for a city house,” says Rebekah Zaveloff, CKD, co-founder and director of design at Chicago-based KitchenLab.

But the floor plan needed some help, the designer says. The kitchen, in particular, had a variety of issues. “The kitchen felt truncated,” Zaveloff recalls. “You felt like the powder room was a box. Everything seemed mailed in, and it did not feel fitted.”

Zaveloff wanted to organize the spaces differ-

ently to increase the circulation and to make efficient use of the limited square footage. Her first move was to open the kitchen to the living room and the rest of the house. She shrank the dining room, changed the location of the stairs, and re-located the bathroom so that it fits better with the floor plan and works with the flow of traffic.

“They wanted to redo the kitchen—and pull the house together with furnishings, artwork, accessories, etc.,” the designer says. “Moving the powder room and stairs was the best space plan solution, and all the fun stuff that came along with it they were completely open to.”

The result of the design firm’s moves is a small house that lives much bigger and more efficiently. ■

A new patio door to the back brings in light and includes a custom dog door.

A 48-inch gas range and custom hood anchor the kitchen.

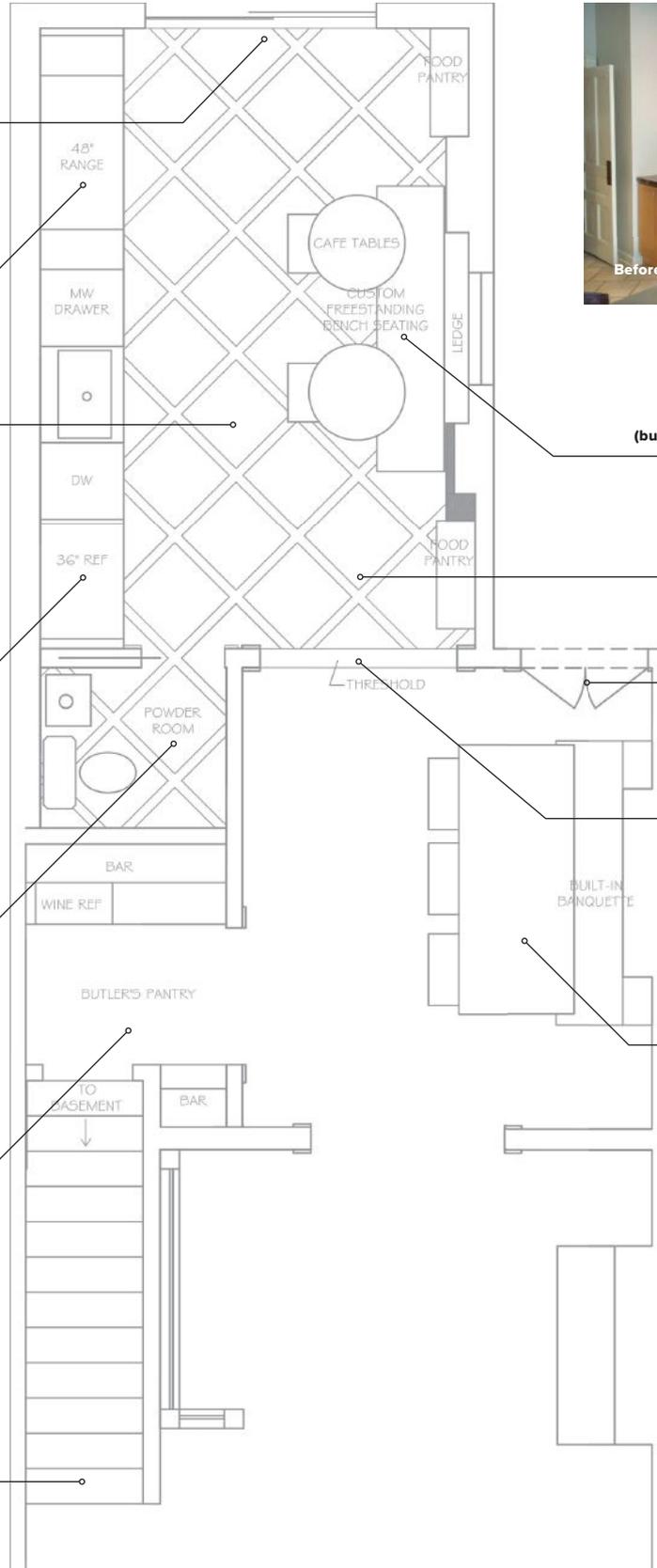
Marble floors feature an oak inlay.

A 36-inch counter-depth refrigerator offers ample storage and blends in seamlessly with the cabinets.

The powder room was relocated to open up the kitchen to the dining area and the rest of the house.

The relocated basement stair allowed for the creation of a butler's pantry with a wine refrigerator and bar.

The designer moved the stairs to the basement from the east to the west side of the small vestibule off the dining room.



Freestanding furniture-style banquette seating and a trestle table were used in lieu of an island (but are flexible in case they ever want to change it).

The kitchen is now seamlessly connected to the dining room and incorporates an eat-in area.

The designer replaced a window in the dining room with new French doors.

The opening between the kitchen and dining room was enlarged.

The designer moved the dining room table from the center of the room to the south wall and added a built-in banquette.

Resources

Cabinets: Custom (walnut)

Countertops: Taj Mahal quartzite

Range and hood: BlueStar

Microwave: Sharp

Dishwasher: Miele

Refrigerator: Liebherr

Tile: Waterworks

Faucet: Waterstone

Sink: Julien

Ceiling light: Lightology

Hardware: Häfele