

Modern Symmetry

A kitchen made over,
just in time for the holidays

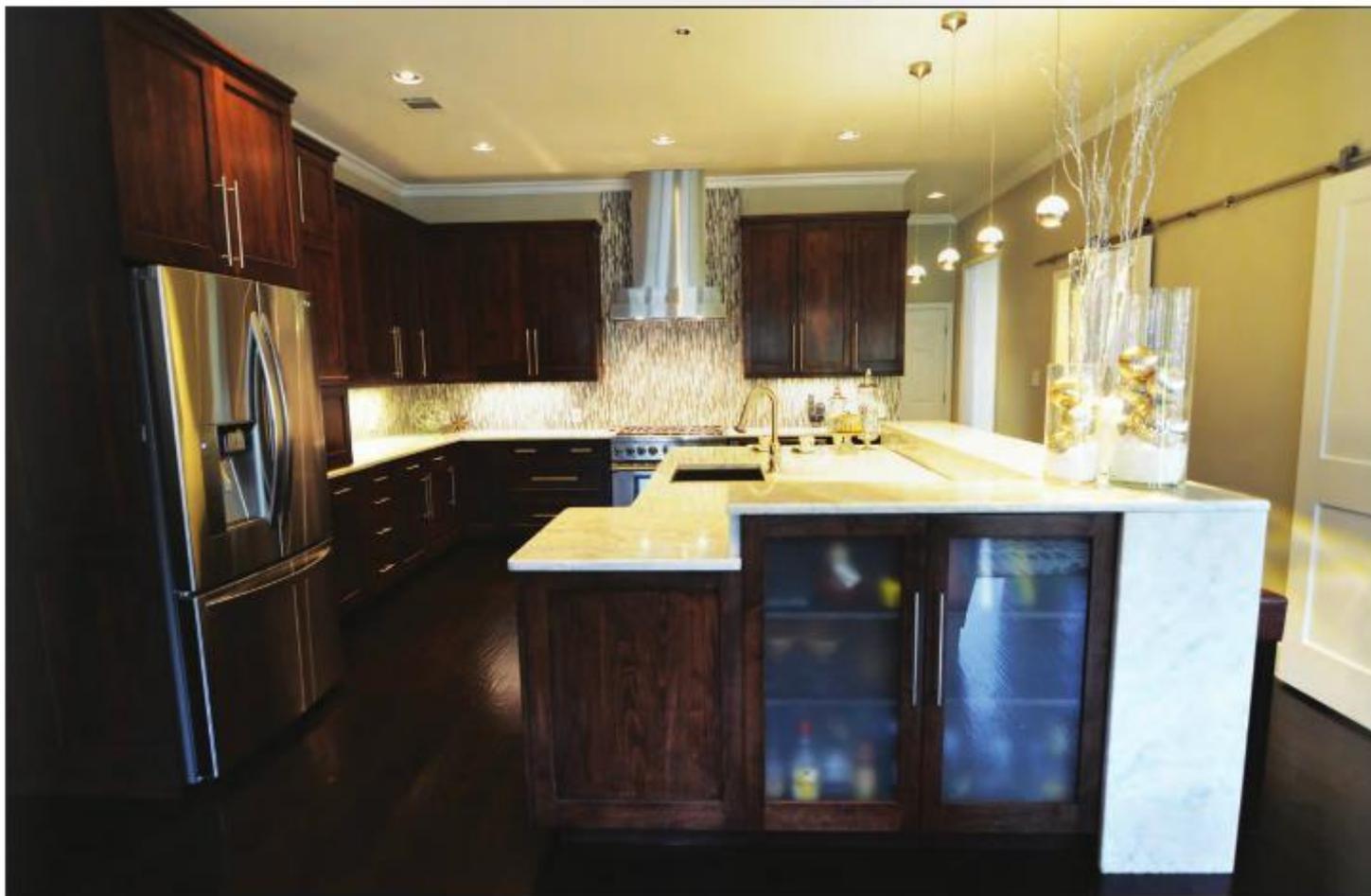
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By Lisa Martin Photos by Clare Miers

Festive holiday touches complement the homeowners' dream kitchen.





Todd and Lisa Winch remodeled the kitchen of their South Florida home not six months before learning they'd move to North Texas, so finding new digs that would oblige Lisa's gourmet inclinations became a top priority. And while the 3,800-square-foot residence they bought in the Timarron addition had much to recommend it — in particular, the open layout plus the bank of great-room windows looking out onto the pool — the kitchen left them wanting.

"Our first priority was creating a chef's kitchen with lots of cabinet and countertop space," says Todd. "Lisa loves entertaining, so we wanted to make the space work a lot better for that, too." Adds Lisa, "So we basically came in and gutted it."

To guide the project, the Winches called on Julie and David Walsh of Sterling Renovations, giving them both a wish list and a timetable. In a scant five weeks (the time before Lisa and their 11-year-old daughter, Sarah, would join Todd in Southlake), the couple wanted a complete kitchen redo, a reimagined great-room fireplace and new floors throughout the main level of the house.

Replacing the carpet and tile came first. "Todd and Lisa didn't want too much grain showing [in the hardwood floor], so we stained 5-inch, hand-scraped red oak with a mix of ebony and coffee, and we put on a



A chef's dream of a kitchen is complete — just in time for the holidays.



Lots of countertop space in the kitchen and new floors throughout were top priorities for the Winches.



The designers' choices of light fixtures, and a sunburst mirror, helped achieve a clean, modern look.

thick application with a squeegee," says Julie Walsh.

The color informed the stain on the kitchen cabinetry. "We wanted the lighter vein of the floors carried up into the cabinets, which was tough to get right," says Todd. "But it looks amazing."

As a foil to the new dark cabinetry and flooring, Julie recommended using natural white quartz for the countertops and the expanded island, which now boasts seating. "We'd had granite in our other home, but the quartz seems even more durable," says Lisa. "We chose quartz that has big sparkle in it, so it really does brighten up the room."

New LED lighting — recessed cans emitting a bright white glow, along with high-intensity pendant lighting — not only illuminates the space but also adds an eye-catching transitional design element. To improve the function of the space even further, Lisa and Todd selected new appliances that include a 36-inch gas Thermador range, double oven and microwave drawer.

Julie helped amplify the room's storage by creating a new pantry with a barn door along with the new wraparound island, which has proven ideal for hosting guests. "With the original tiny island, there could be a bottleneck when people got in there," she says.



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Todd and Lisa Winch

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Lisa (an avowed New England Patriots fan) also appreciates the fact that she can watch football while slicing, stirring and sauteing in her gourmet kitchen, thanks to the open floor plan. She and her husband hung a 65-inch TV over the new fireplace, which received an update for the sake of visual continuity. "The fireplace had an old green marble facade and reminded me of a hotel I used to work in," says Todd, a hospitality-industry executive.

"There was a white painted mantle over it, the kind you just don't see anymore." Says Lisa, "It's such a focal point that we needed to do something to make it look clean, neat and a lot more modern."

Julie recommended 12-by-24-inch dark gray porcelain tile from Patina with a polished finish and minimal veining. The designer ran the tiles horizontally in order to lure the eye upward. "It doesn't even look like the same room," Julie says. "The whole great room/kitchen area now feels fresh and modern but also warm and inviting."

As for the family chef, she loves the space's streamlined vibe and improved flow. "I didn't like the idea of being stuck in the kitchen while everyone was socializing in another area of the house," says Lisa. "This way everyone can hang out in the kitchen, which is just what I wanted." 



Top: The living area is an example of the home's visual continuity. Above: The stairway decked with garland, courtesy of designer Julie Walsh, for the holidays.