

Family Ties

A three-room remodel brings relatives together

By Alexis Barnes

It wasn't a lack of room, but rather that the rooms were separated from each other that kept one Idaho family from enjoying get-togethers. The kitchen, living and dining areas were all distinct spaces, which made it difficult for everyone to feel included. But Bill Kelly, of Kelly Construction, Inc., sought to change that by removing walls to bring the rooms—and family—together.

"The homeowners wanted a glamorous but warm country kitchen and great room where their children and grandchildren could gather for family events and holidays," he said. "They envisioned an open area so that they could work in the kitchen but still be a part of the activities with the rest of the family."

To accommodate the homeowners' request, Kelly removed the dividing wall along with the pantry and entry closet that separated the kitchen from the formal dining room and den, thus creating a great room effect. Because of an existing structural beam at the end of the wall, however, ornamental pilars were installed to disguise the support posts. To further enhance the feeling of elegance upon entering the home, arches were added to both disguise and connect the beams.

With the rooms now flowing into one another, Kelly concentrated on the kitchen. "We removed the existing peninsula and replaced it with a large work island in the center of the kitchen where the family could gather," he said. To make the area feel larger and more open, the kitchen ceiling was changed from an 8-ft. flat one to a vault by "sistering" new scissor trusses alongside the existing trusses. "This allowed us to vault the ceiling without disturbing the existing roof," said Kelly. The additional wall space created by the vault allowed Kelly to add sloped transom windows above the cabinets for more natural lighting.

The contrasting wood cabinets add visual interest and warmth to the room and are adorned with grapevines and leaves in keeping with the country feel of the space. The refrigerator and other appliances were fitted with custom over-panels so as not to overpower the room. A granite countertop is the only cool element in an otherwise warm room. Oak floors not only unite all of the rooms, but ultimately the family. ■



A wall, pantry and entry closet were removed to create a country kitchen and great room for family gatherings. A large work island replaces a peninsula in the kitchen to provide a central area for convening and the flat ceiling was exchanged for a vaulted one to open up the space. The added height allowed new transom windows to be installed, which in turn, provided the room with more daylight.

SOURCES

Designer: Bill Kelly—
Kelly Construction, Inc., Boise, ID
Architect: Collective Home Concepts
Interior Designer: Sondra Hansen—
Corali's Design House

Manufacturers
Cabinetry: Jayco Cabinets;
CBH Cabinetry
Range and oven: Wolf
Refrigerator: Sub-Zero
Dishwasher: KitchenAid
Microwave: Sharp

Photographer: © Pete Hecht
Photography