

Spotlight on
Design

Practical Makeovers

Transform your kitchen from dreary to dazzling
with the help of a professional designer.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MELANIE JOHNSON PHOTOGRAPHY

Designer:

Abbe Fenimore, Studio Ten 25
studioten25.com



Freshened Up

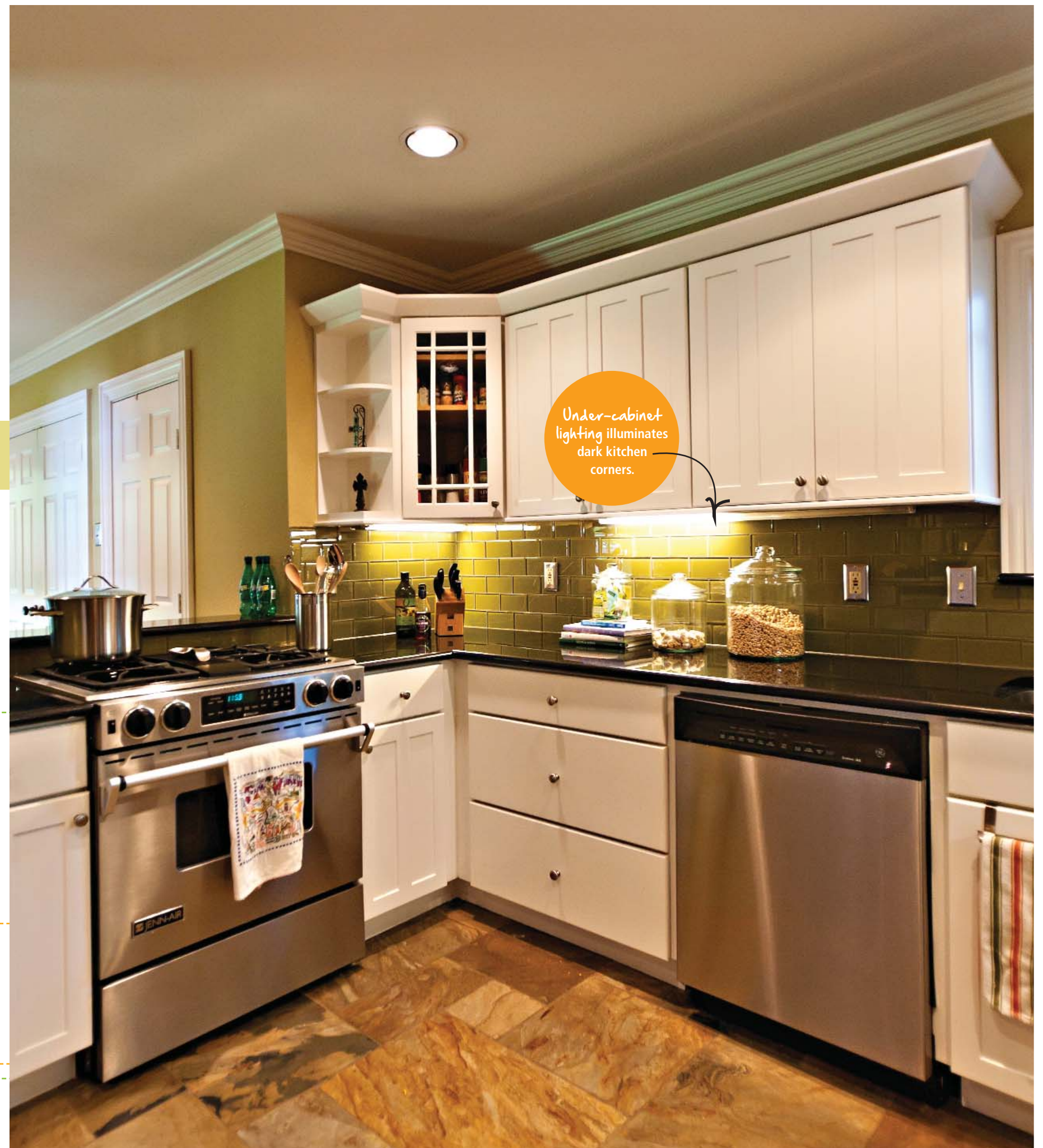
Type of home: Ranch style home, c. 1950s

Primary goal: Freshen the overall look and feel of the space

Extent of redesign: Cosmetic

**Designer
Notes:**

"The kitchen was somewhat updated,
but it needed a few small
changes to brighten it up."



Freshened Up

Recessed lighting casts a warm glow that reflects off the green-tile backsplash, immediately brightening the space.



"Painting the cabinets white instantly updated the kitchen and completed the overall modern look."

7 Steps to Remodeling Success

Designer Abbe Fenimore offers her fail-proof steps to planning the perfect kitchen remodel.

1. Keep to your kitchen's current layout. It is much easier to update the space, and it will allow you to add a few upgrades that major construction costs can chew up.
2. Ask friends and family to refer contractors who can give you a bid on your project. If you need assistance with the details, consider hiring a designer who can pull the look together and keep your budget on track.
3. Budgets can get out of hand if you don't have a plan to stick to. Make a spreadsheet with all of the costs involved, and always keep the lines of communication open with your contractor and designer.
4. Narrow down your top choices for flooring, counter-tops, lighting, appliances, etc. and always have "same look for less" backup options. Be prepared to compromise if price and availability throw your plan off.
5. Use what you have, which, when combined with a few affordable updates, can completely change the look and feel of your kitchen. A fresh coat of paint, new hardware and under-cabinet lighting are the easiest ways to make an impact without gutting the space.
6. If you plan to undergo a major kitchen renovation while living in your home, discuss the timeframe in detail with your contractor to make sure there are no major surprises. Expect that material backorders, scheduling conflicts and inevitable little mishaps will happen along the way.
7. There are many resources online that offer wholesale pricing on tile, backsplash materials, appliances and more. Take the time to research your options so that you are comfortable with your investment pieces.

See Shopping Guide, page 94.



A fresh coat of paint enhances the sparkle of the existing tile backsplash and adds instant punch.



Modern Marvel

Type of home: Modern single-family home

Primary goal: Transform the design from traditional to modern

Extent of redesign: Complete

Designer Notes:

"The kitchen was a typical 'spec home' kitchen—it had oak cabinets with reddish-orange stain, basic floor tile and black appliances. It was in good condition, but the style did not fit the client's modern design aesthetic."



"The homeowners really wanted to replace the cabinets; however, we ended up painting them to cut costs."

Sleek brushed-nickel pulls, a new countertop and fresh paint completely resurrected the timeworn kitchen island.



"New Caesarstone countertops and a crisp white subway tile backsplash were modern elements that my client wanted."



"We removed the cabinets on one half of the island to create a small sitting area for the family to gather during mealtimes."

Dark charcoal tile flooring adds sophistication and fuses the modern aesthetic.



Loft Appeal

Type of home: Transitional loft

Primary goal: Create a better flow between adjacent kitchen, dining and lounge spaces

Extent of redesign: Cosmetic

Designer
Notes:

"The kitchen, dining and lounge areas are great examples of how a few small changes can turn your space into something spectacular. You do not have to endure a major remodel and spend thousands of dollars to achieve an updated look."



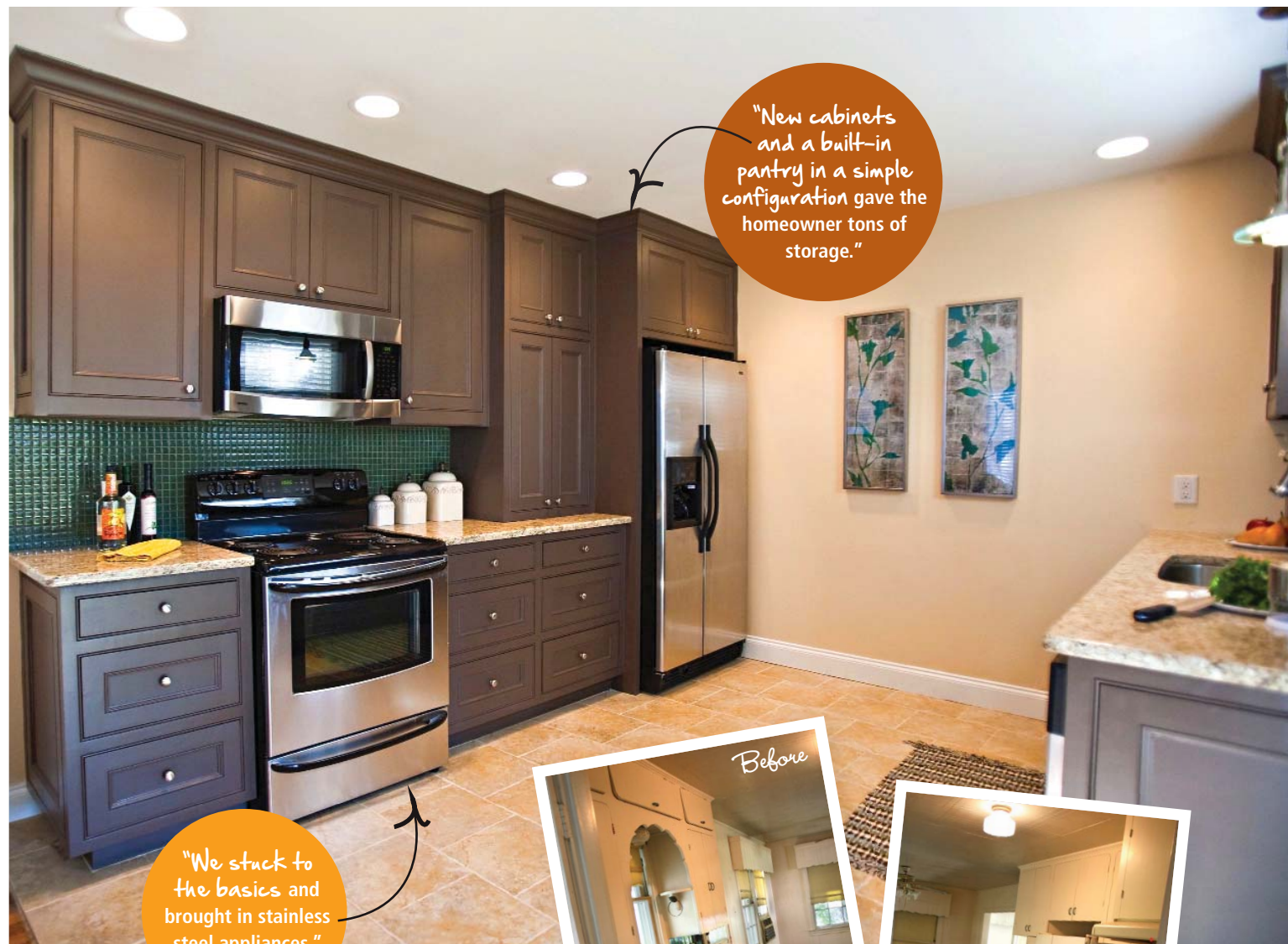
A turned pendant chandelier helps distinguish the dining area without disrupting the flow from kitchen to lounge.

"We added a rug in the dining area to ground the table and chairs."



"A fresh coat of paint in a sage green made the biggest impact in this space."

"Before the redesign, the seating area faced away from the main areas and didn't make entertaining easy for the homeowners."



"New cabinets and a built-in pantry in a simple configuration gave the homeowner tons of storage."

"We stuck to the basics and brought in stainless steel appliances," Abbe says.



Before



Before

Bungalow Bliss

Type of home: Historic bungalow, c. 1930s

Primary goal: Improve overall function and resale value

Extent of redesign: Complete

Designer Notes:

"We took this kitchen down to the studs, added new sheetrock and a subfloor, and replaced all of the plumbing."



Shaker-style cabinetry and crown molding add elegance to the small galley kitchen, which was "a complete mess" before the redesign.

A forest-green square-tile backsplash adds sparkle and dimension.



Granite replaced the outdated black-and-white tile countertops.



A cheerful buttery yellow complements the refurbished hardwood and brightens the room dramatically.