

MANSION



ANNOTATED ROOM

A Just-in-Time Kitchen Remodel

Their full-home renovation put on hold, these expectant parents put all their effort into an essential space

By VAISHNAVI NAYEL TALAWADEKAR

WHEN A YOUNG COUPLE—an actuary and a manager in technology transformation, both in their early 30s—purchased a circa-1970 home in Minnetonka, Minn., for \$450,000 in 2019, they knew they'd struck a real-estate jackpot, at least in terms of location. The interior, however, tempered the win. It was cramped, dated and lacked energy. Recognizing that they needed help, they turned to Instagram

A few dozen searches later, they

found a match in Julia Miller of Yond Interiors, whom they swiftly tapped to overhaul the home.

Budget constraints meant the initial plan had to be tabled, and when the couple discovered they were expecting their first baby, they decided to focus on the kitchen so it could be finished before their little one's arrival.

As avid cooks, the couple's only prompt was to design an island where they could cut more than one green onion. Miller eliminated the formal dining room to make

space for an 8.5-foot-long walnut island and a casual dining nook, which now seats seven, inside the kitchen.

As for the aesthetic, she decided to skew Scandi-traditional, opting for Venatino marble for the perimeter cabinetry and range splash, soapstone for the island, and Italian plaster on the range alcove.

"We wanted to create a space that was fit for a cook, but comfortable enough for conversation," she says.

The existing wood floors were

refinished with a lighter stain, while the walls were kept white to tie in with the rest of the home. Miller also specified white oak beams for the ceiling, which blend in with the home's original architecture.

"The renovation was completed around the same time that the couple's baby was born, and they now love hosting events as a family in their new space," says Miller.

Here are some features of this \$185,000 kitchen that make it perfect for cook-outs big and small.

1. Pendants

The wood and glass pendants are by Lostine. "The ceilings are 8-foot high, so we needed fixtures that were visually light," says Miller. // Price: \$1,565 each.

2. Island Seating

The island is flanked by vintage chairs that echo the rustic setting. They were bought on 1stDibs. // Price of set: \$2,900

3. Cabinetry

Miller opted for bespoke flat-panel doors in warm greige. Inside, deep drawers offer ample options for storage. // Price: \$20,070

4. Walnut Island

The custom 8.5-foot-long island with soapstone counters is the couple's favorite design feature, "because somehow, even when it's a total mess, it's beautiful," says the wife. Miller elected to use walnut for the base, deeming it a worthy long-term investment. // Price: \$7,050

5. Range Alcove

The custom range alcove, made of Italian plaster, is the centerpiece of the kitchen. It houses a Venatino marble backsplash. // Price: \$3,060

6. Wall Sconces

Sconces with handmade porcelain shades and brass accents, from Triple Seven Home, cast light over the counters. "We wanted at least three light sources in the kitchen, and these sconces provide the perfect amount of ambient cover," says Miller. // Price: \$345 each.