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# kitchen+ bath makeovers

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Get It All!

- Granite countertops
- Stainless-steel appliances
- Great cabinets

Winter 2011

Special 11th Anniversary



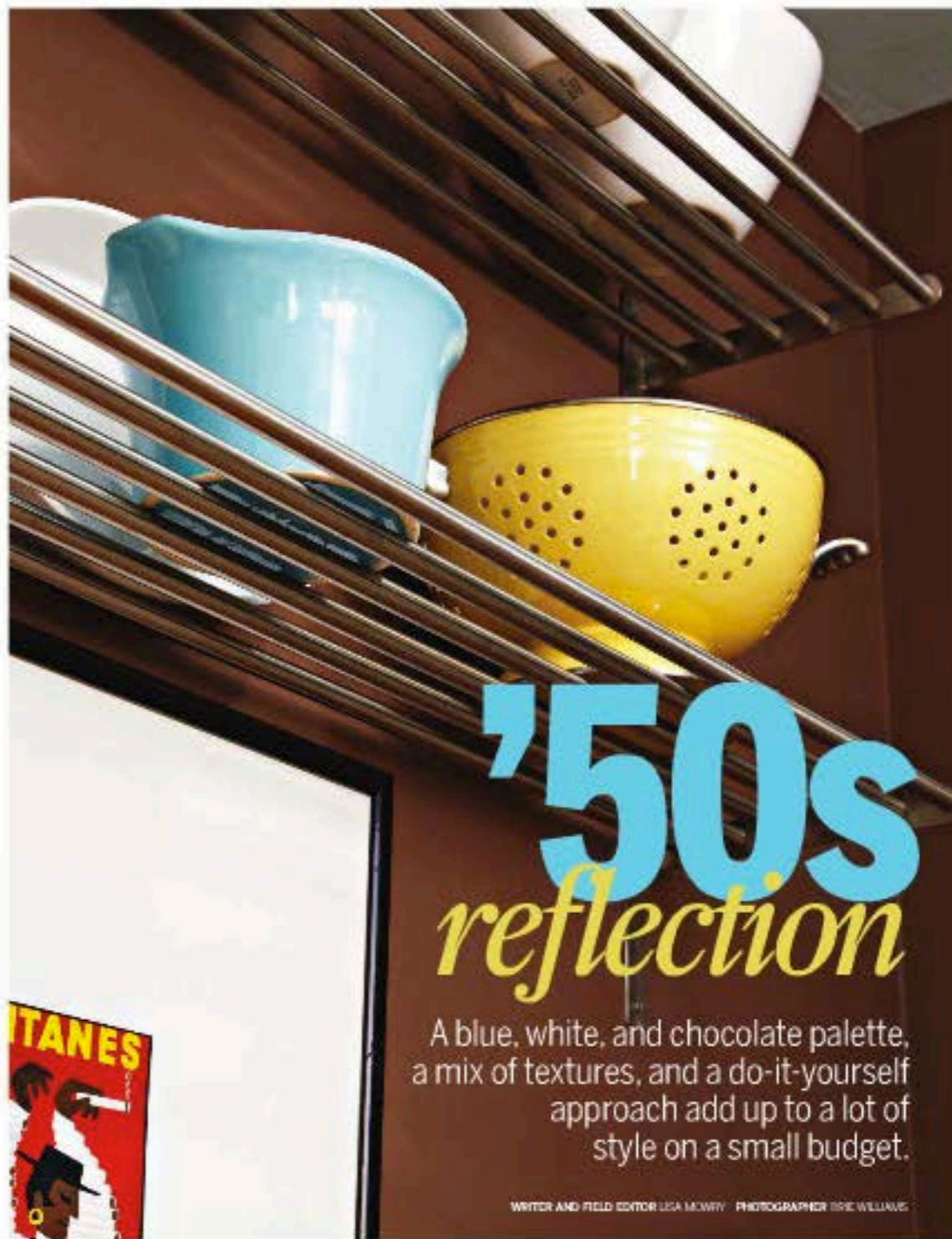
**THIS PHOTO** In this 1955 kitchen, a modern stainless-steel cart fills in as a movable island, providing storage for what you need and where you need it. Deep brown wall paint plays off the floor and contrasts with the room's blue cabinetry.



before



**in this makeover** NEW FLOOR TILES... MOVABLE ISLAND...  
RETRO LIGHT FIXTURES... BUTCHER-BLOCK COUNTERTOP... OPEN SHELVING



# '50s reflection

A blue, white, and chocolate palette, a mix of textures, and a do-it-yourself approach add up to a lot of style on a small budget.

WRITER AND FIELD EDITOR USA MCWY... PHOTOGRAPHER IRIS WILLIAMS



**DESIGN IDEA**  
 Make a small room feel larger and more open by installing shelves on a wall instead of cabinetry.

# W

hen Kevin Carpenter moved into his retro ranch house in Charlotte, he didn't unpack any boxes in the kitchen. He knew the old, inefficient room would

have to be rewired before he could ever cook there.

Fortunately, Kevin is an interior designer with a knack for space planning, and he also loves to assemble things. With the help of partner Jerry Chabica, Kevin installed new cabinetry and flooring. That do-it-yourself talent helped the couple save big bucks.

Cuing in on the home's 1955 design meant the update lent itself to a less formal look and, consequently, less formal materials. "It's a ranch house, so that gave me the opportunity to be a little funky," Kevin says.

The room's design began with the floor, Kevin says. He fell in love with Marmoleum tile, an environmentally friendly linoleum product that's durable and inexpensive. He chose a combination of

powder blue, brown, and cream, experimenting on paper with tile arrangements before putting down any flooring. "Jerry and I installed it in a day," he says.

Kevin also did his homework on cabinetry, delving into IKEA's online planner that helps homeowners design a kitchen. Finalizing the plan required a jaunt to Atlanta, site of the retailer's nearest store at the time.

Buying a few other items—a rolling cart to serve as the island, a modern vent hood, and vintage-look light fixtures—made the trip even more worthwhile. Kevin also picked up metal shelves to display pottery

**ABOVE LEFT** Homeowner Kevin Carpenter added a chartreuse window treatment. "I needed to break away from the blue-and-brown thing," he says. "The window treatment adds some nice softening over there." **ABOVE** Kevin relocated the washer and dryer to an adjacent enclosed porch and took advantage of the plumbing along this wall for a wet bar. The beverage center—with its different look from the other cabinetry—creates two distinct areas in the kitchen. **OPPOSITE** Kevin designed the kitchen so the cooktop isn't a focal point. The display shelves and vintage art appeal to his sense of style. The backsplash behind the cooktop is a clever, cost-saving item—it's actually a clear dry-erase board.



and kitchen items. Kevin chose two materials for countertops, a cream quartz-surfacing and butcher block, liking the integrity of stone and wood for the room. Other interesting textures appear in a floor-to-ceiling beverage cabinet/wet bar. Its sophisticated style includes birch base cabinets and frosted panels on upper cabinets that offer lots of storage. Installing all of the cabinets took about a weekend.

The clever backsplash behind the cooktop is the result of a brainstorm when Kevin spied a clear dry-erase board in IKEA's office department. "I figured that for less than \$50, it was an experiment worth trying to use the board as a backsplash, and it has worked great," he says. A parrot print inserted behind the board brings even more personality to the room. Like the rest of the kitchen, these details show more creativity than cash. The '50s have never looked so good. 

RESOURCES BEGIN ON PAGE 110

**ABOVE** An enclosed porch adjacent to the kitchen offered an ideal place for the washer and dryer, as well as cabinets to store household items. "Storage in a '55 house is nonexistent, so we had to make some," Kevin says.

## YES, YOU CAN ASSEMBLE KITCHEN CABINETS

Designer Kevin Carpenter offers these tips for assembling cabinetry—and keeping your sanity while doing it.

- **CLEAR YOUR WORK SPACE** and have plenty of room. Cabinets have a lot of parts and pieces. Store the unassembled components in another space (such as a garage) and bring in only what you need for each cabinet.
- **START WITH A SIMPLE, BASIC CABINET.** Most of the cabinets will repeat assembly processes, so learn the basics on a straightforward box.
- **KNOW WHEN TO WALK AWAY.** It's easy to get fired or frustrated if you get stuck, take a break.
- **HAVE A HELPER** who understands the steps and can hand you the next part or tool. This will also cut down on mistakes.

## { about this makeover }

### THE FLOOR PLAN



#### 1. MOVED LAUNDRY

The old kitchen layout had only one wall of cabinets and a washer/dryer, which homeowner and interior designer Kevin Carpenter moved to an adjacent room.

#### 2. REARRANGED

The cleanup zone became more efficient after Kevin moved the dishwasher next to the sink.

#### 3. ADDED STORAGE

The designer employed vertical space with a floor-to-ceiling pantry beside the sink and cabinets above the refrigerator.

#### 4. GEARED FOR ENTERTAINING

A wet bar where the laundry formerly was provides counter space as well as abundant storage; below the counter are drawers and above are glass-front cabinets.

### THE BUDGET

#### APPLIANCES

■ Cooktop	400
■ Microwave	350
■ Oven	600
■ Vent hood	450

#### CABINETS

■ Cabinets	2,900
■ Hardware	200

#### PLUMBING

■ Faucet	150
■ Sink	300

#### SURFACES

■ Backsplash (dry-erase board)	40
■ Butcher-block countertop	350
■ Flooring	800
■ Paint	40
■ Quartz-surfacing countertop	850

#### MISCELLANEOUS

■ Light fixtures	350
■ Storage cart/island	300
■ Wall shelves	200
■ Window treatment fabric	100

**TOTAL** **\$8,380**



### THE DETAILS

**ABOVE** The colorful tiles that Kevin chose for the floor are Marmeleum, an eco-friendly product made from natural materials. He liked the natural color palette for his mix-and-match floor.



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