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Arlington

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Red is the new neutral in this mid-mod kitchen makeover.

The intervention preserves a straight view from the front door into the kitchen, while opening up the main floor connections between the living room, kitchen and bedroom wing.

With the exception of one wall, the kitchen is now largely free of upper cabinets. “It opens into the dining room and a newly covered deck with views to the backyard,” Sauri says. “They have this beautiful backyard that looks out into the trees. It’s a gorgeous area because of the topography.” Obstructing that view would have been a crime.

Tomato red cabinets by Wynnbrooke dominate the design, but not in a bad way. Because most of it is below eye level, the color does not overwhelm.

To make up for the lack of upper cabinet storage, Sauri added a pantry (not shown) behind the refrigerator wall. “This space was 10½ feet,” he explains. “It was much larger than the hallway that was needed, but not wide enough or big enough to do anything with. We couldn’t turn it into a breakfast area, so we made a pantry.”

The kitchen’s other surfaces and materials, such as quartz countertops, stainless steel appliances, and champagne bronze and satin brass metal finishes, play a supporting role to the red. Together they create an aesthetic that brings the wow.

“We love it,” Melanie says. “The red almost feels neutral. It goes with everything. We have more than enough storage space and room for entertaining. The design reflects our style and also the original design of the house.”

Cool Vermilion

IN THE 15 YEARS after they bought their Arlington home, a postwar rambler built in the 1950s, Melanie and David (last name withheld for privacy)

made various improvements, but the kitchen stayed more or less the same. “The kitchen was functional, renovated sometime in the late ‘90s,” says Mel-

anie, who works in public affairs. (David is an entrepreneur.) “The layout was cramped and a bit awkward. The style was very generic and not our taste at all. It was very beige.”

Its dated finishes, lack of storage and oddly angled sink left much to be desired, she adds. But the space did have some redeeming qualities,

including its sunny, east-facing orientation and prime location in the center of the house.

To build on these positive attributes, the couple turned to TriVistaUSA, a design-build firm in Arlington. “We like midcentury style and wanted any upgrades to the house to be consistent with the original design,” Melanie says.

The home’s original narrow kitchen was little more than a hallway with cabinets. To create better circulation and sight lines inside the house, TriVistaUSA co-owner Michael Sauri reconfigured various aspects of the layout, relocating a kitchen pantry and removing wall casings that were making the interiors feel cramped.

THE PROJECT

Kitchen Designer/Contractor:
TriVistaUSA Design+Build
trivistausa.com