

Kitchens

SOLVED

It's no secret that the kitchen is where everyone tends to congregate. These four homeowners faced the problem of designing kitchens that fit their lifestyles and accommodate their expanding families. And they met the challenge

By Blake Miller + Photographs by Chris Edwards

Architect Ruud Veltman applied his design expertise to his kitchen renovation. The remodel, which repurposed some of the rooms' functions, resulted in an area devoted solely to food prep and storage and a living area saved for dining and entertaining.

Frequent entertainers, the Veltmans installed a Stella Artois beer tap, which Ruard says comes in handy when they have dinner parties or guests over for impromptu drinks. It was also about efficiency: "A refrigerator full of beer takes up a lot of space," he says.



Before



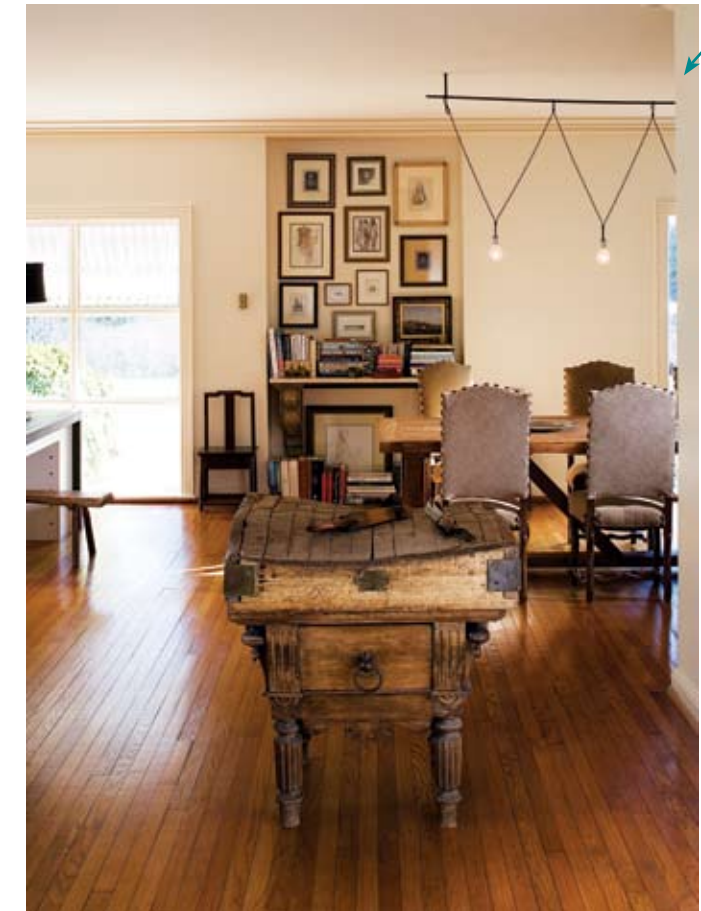
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THE VELTMANS

WHEN ARCHITECT RUARD VELTMAN and his wife, Millicent, moved to Charlotte in 2002, they settled on a comfortable bungalow in Plaza Midwood. But the couple never forgot the home they loved but couldn't have: a 1940s ranch designed by famed Charlotte architect Martin Boyer, also in Plaza Midwood. "We were smitten with it, loved it even before knowing what the inside looked like," says Ruard. "And we always said this: if we had our choice, we wanted that home on St. Andrews."

Finally, the house went on the market in 2009 and the Veltmans jumped at the opportunity to purchase it. While the home fit their family's lifestyle—their son, Fritz, is five, and daughter, Perrin, is three—they knew the outdated kitchen and dining room needed some work. But instead of a massive renovation, the Veltmans opted to simply rework each room's purpose. The tiny kitchen became, more or less, the pantry and cook prep area complete with a twelve-foot stainless steel sink, stainless steel island, fridge, oven, open shelving for food and dishes, and an adjacent laundry room. The dining room was outfitted with a stovetop and "clean" sink, where only fresh fruits and vegetables would be washed.

"I crave simplicity," says Ruard. "In five minutes I can clean up everything in the space where everyone lives and entertains. The back kitchen is where the mess can happen. It's being clever with spaces."



The Veltmans now find it easier to entertain, which they do quite often at the large dining room table by Tom Verellen, which Ruard found at High Point market. It's also perfect for their two children, who often play or color at the table while Mom and Dad cook dinner. "This house has perfect bones," says Ruard. "We didn't want to change the space—we just changed the function. And there's great value in that."

CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT: Veltman added a range in the dining area. "When I cook I want to be around people, not secluded," says Veltman. Storage is confined to the kitchen prep area to keep the dining area from becoming too cluttered.

