

As seen from the dining area, guests now enjoy **full views of the open living room and busy kitchen after the removal of space-dividing walls.** Bold colors and harmonious seating compositions help to delineate the united spaces.



OPENHO



BEFORE

USE

Creative design and courageous changes transform a dated 1968 rambler into a spacious, contemporary home for an active Murray family

BY NATALIE TAYLOR PHOTOS BY SCOT ZIMMERMAN



WHO SAYS YOU CAN'T GO HOME AGAIN?

Certainly not Nanette Amis. She, along with husband Jeff, returned to her childhood home and transformed it into a modern abode, where they are raising their four children and entertaining friends and family.

After living in Seattle, the Amises purchased the modest 1968 rambler from Nanette's parents in 1998. Located in Murray, the two-story, 3,400-square-foot ranch home held six bedrooms, three bathrooms, a swimming pool and sport court. It also featured a very segmented floor plan. And although Nanette had sentimental ties to the home her father built, she quickly realized it needed an update to accommodate their growing family and active needs.

As the owner of Art Market, a marketplace for local artisans, Nanette regularly hosted local art shows in the home, opening it to artisans and community members alike. At the same time, the Amises' passion for hosting parties gained momentum, and it soon became clear that their lifestyle and their dated home simply didn't sync. It was time for a change.

In its original state, the home's main living area was comprised of separate rooms including a living room, dining room and a tiny U-shaped kitchen that was falling apart; its electric stove had just one operating element. "We didn't want to put new kitchen appliances into an old space," explains Nanette. The home also needed a new roof because the pitched roofline intersected with a

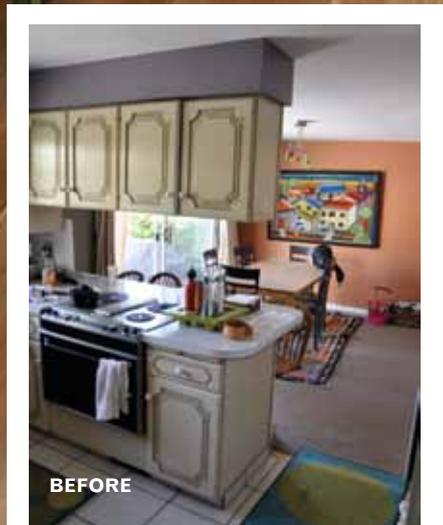


The Amis family:
Isabel, Grace, Ruby
Sue, Jeff, Nanette
and Davis



The 120" x 63" custom built island with CaesarStone quartz surface and 15" overhang features built-in storage, drawers and bookshelves. Front-facing cabinets disappear into the island, but provide ample storage for essential entertaining platters, bowls and serving pieces.

AFTER



BEFORE



BEFORE

flat line on the patio, and it was constantly leaking. The Amises decided to address these and other issues with a major remodel that included creating a great room by knocking out a mid-wall anchored by an underutilized fireplace. “We wanted an open space where people could interact, converse and mingle freely,” says Jeff.

As is always the case, the redo was simpler to envision than to execute, so the Amises hired Warren Lloyd, principal at Lloyd Architects, to troubleshoot details. Lloyd and the Amises went to college together, and because Lloyd attends many of their parties, he understood their personalities. “We love Warren’s style,” says Nanette. “He has a clean, contemporary flair, so it was a perfect fit.” Aside from his design sense, the Amises enjoyed working with him. “Warren listens, he doesn’t direct,” explains Jeff. “He offers solutions.” Chemistry aside, removing a central fireplace is a dramatic idea, and one that presented challenges. The water heater, for example, vented through the fireplace and needed to be rerouted.

“At first, it wasn’t apparent that we could even remove the wall,” explains Lloyd. Although the house had signs of wear, it was well constructed. So after researching, they discovered that the mid-wall wasn’t structurally necessary. “It was a transformative moment,” says Lloyd. “We were literally opening the heart of the home.”

Over the next five months, a new open floor plan emerged with a kitchen redesigned around the art of cooking. “We would sit in the kitchen late at night with graph paper,” says Nanette. “We’d go over and over the details to make sure we had a reason for everything we



AFTER

The Amis’ used 13 different Benjamin Moore paints in their remodel including:



IRON MOUNTAIN



GRAY CASHMERE



RENDEZVOUS BAY

A large stainless undermount sink with a modern Kohler Karbon faucet replaces a timeworn corner fixture. The large window provides abundant natural light, which shows off the clean, back-painted glass backsplash.



The corner pullout rack uses the kitchen corner space in a creative way, foregoing the traditional lazy Susan or foldout cabinet options.

Generous counter seating, a stainless steel island hood and splayed skylights—which diffuse sunlight broadly and evenly—accent this massive kitchen island serving as the hearth of the home.

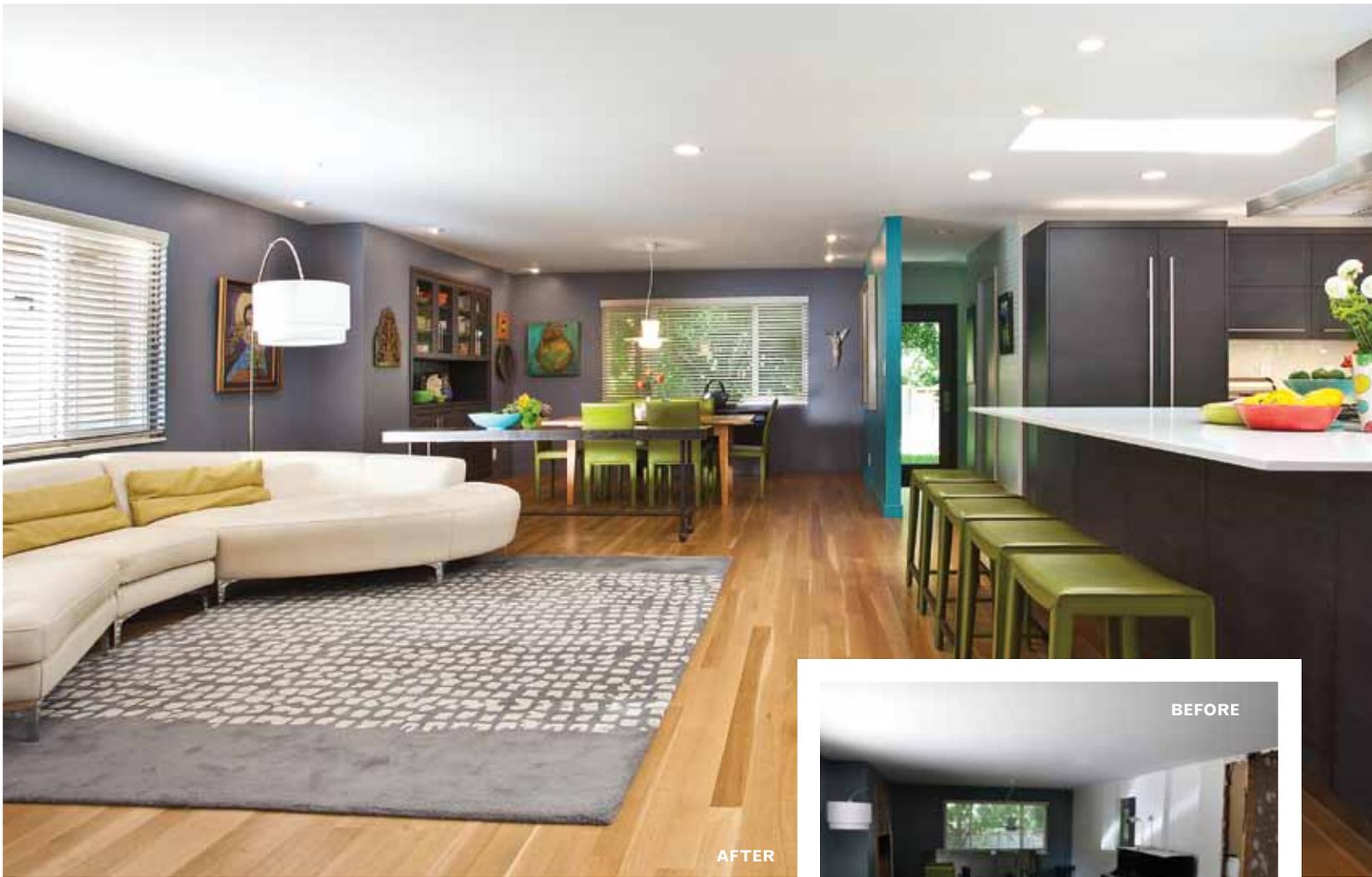


EVE GREEN



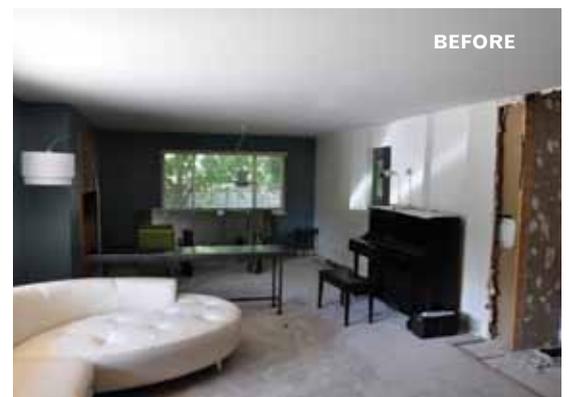
Custom-made, rift-sawn white oak cabinets with gray stain feature the Aventos bi-fold lift system by Blum. They open easily, remain in any desired position and close silently.

Ample under-counter storage and large book-cases accommodate the Amises' tableware and serving pieces, as well as a library of cookbooks.



AFTER

The fireplace wall, sidewall and entry wall were removed to open the home's floor plan. Rift-sawn white oak floors replace tile while accenting the gray-stained kitchen cabinets and central island. Bright skylights and a large glass door drench the space in sunshine.



BEFORE



“We’d go over and over the details to make sure we had a reason for everything and that every item in the kitchen had a designated place.”

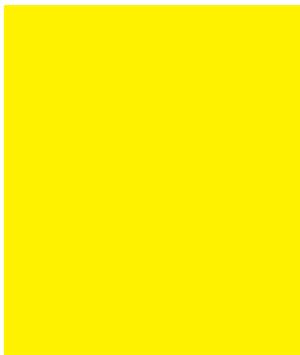
—Nanette Amis

Painted gray cabinets with glass tile showcase bright handmade ceramics.

The once-dark side door hallway now features a **turquoise wall and full glass door** providing more western exposure and light.

did and that every item in the kitchen had a designated place.” With an open flow directing guests straight to the kitchen, the room had to be seamless, uniform and functional. And it required a high level of conscientious detail. “Many people can be overwhelmed with the decisions in a remodel,” says Lloyd. “But Jeff and Nanette embraced the process.”

Once the walls were removed, a huge kitchen island replaced the hearth—both physically and symbolically. While the layout of the home remained intact, the flow changed dramatically as rooms were stripped to bare bones revealing crisp, minimal living spaces. The outdated kitchen was completely remodeled for both form and function. Skylights brighten the once dark area and the cramped entry. Neutral colors



CENTER OF ATTENTION

When the Amises got rid of the mid-wall and fireplace, the kitchen became the focus of the floor plan. “That required a high level of detail and sophisticated finishes,” says **Warren Lloyd**, principal at Lloyd Architects. “The resulting finesse makes it an appropriate centerpiece to the house, with just enough detail to give it a certain formality.” Here, Lloyd provides some ideas for how to integrate a new kitchen into an open floor plan:

Choose clean and modern millwork, making it visually less important than the people enjoying the space.

Plan for multiple seating options enabling people to gather in natural clusters.

Maintain unobstructed views to facilitate practical and social interaction, like being able to converse while cooking.

Link the spaces with common colors.

Integrate natural light and sophisticated lighting features for interesting illumination.

Delineate the kitchen with architectural features such as changes in ceiling height or the inclusion of pony walls.

For more information about **Art Market** and the 2012 schedule of events, visit artmarketutah.com. Plan to visit the Art Market May 4–5. Sugarhouse Garden Center, 1602 E. 2100 South, SLC

were refreshed with funky, modern color-blocking. And the troublesome patio roof was redone with a pitched roofline that not only accommodates easier outdoor cooking and entertaining, but allows more sunlight to flow indoors.

Today, guests walk through the front door and straight into the action. “We love how people can sit at the bar, in the living room or at the dining room table and still interact with everyone,” says Nanette. As they had hoped, the result is a refreshed and refined interior that serves as the perfect backdrop for their passions. **USD**



NANETTE'S TIPS FOR CHOOSING COURAGEOUS COLORS

When it came time to repaint her new home, Nanette Amis wanted a colorful palette. After weeks of agonizing, she turned to her friend, interior designer Leslie Benfell for advice. “Leslie really helped me think out of the box,” says Nanette. “We let the art dictate the color, and with Leslie’s consulting support, I chose colors like chartreuse, turquoise and deep gray.” Here, she shares some ideas:

Let them play. Notice the interplay from one color to another. Add a bit of contrast in value between adjacent colors or the overall effect will feel flat and lifeless.

Change it up. Use accent colors where walls change direction so both color and architectural change work together.

Keep it clean. Make color changes on the inside rather than the outside corners to make a seamless transition with the architecture.

Test it. Buy a quart and test the color first before you paint the whole room.

Tell a story. Examine the colors as you look from one room into another, in hallways and other connecting spaces. Then build a color story that unifies the entire house.

Get inspired. My favorite color schemes come from art; a single painting can inspire the color scheme for the whole house.