



Point of connection.
Restrictions created by the exposed structure and limited space meant disguising the hood-ductwork connection inside a wooden transition box.

and floor. Task lighting includes the range-hood lights and high-output LED strip lights set into receiver tracks with frosted-plastic diffusers under the upper cabinets. I'd never used that type of lighting over a sink, and I was worried that it might not provide enough light, but my clients are very happy with it.

We replaced the large windows with low-e dual-pane units. I tried to sell the homeowners on the added comfort of triple glazing, but the upcharge was not worth it to them. We removed the warped rough-sawn, black-stained trim in favor of smooth white trim,

and we tried to find a cheery yellow for the walls, but the southeast exposure made any yellow look too bright. We ended up with off-white walls that provide a neutral frame for the views of the lake outside. We replaced the exterior solid wood doors with yellow-painted, fully glazed doors, which let in a lot of natural light.

The final decision was the backsplash. We settled on a slightly smoky, clear glass tile with a white-painted back to reflect the light coming in the windows and provide texture without darkening the space. We installed the tiles with a special stain-resistant grout

that had to be pushed hard into the spaces because the edges of the tile are visible (so if not fully filled, it leaves a black line). The process added time and materials, but the finished backsplash looks great.

Throughout the project, every decision had to answer two questions in the affirmative: "Is it clean, crisp, and bright?" and "Is it right for the house?" By all accounts, yes. □

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