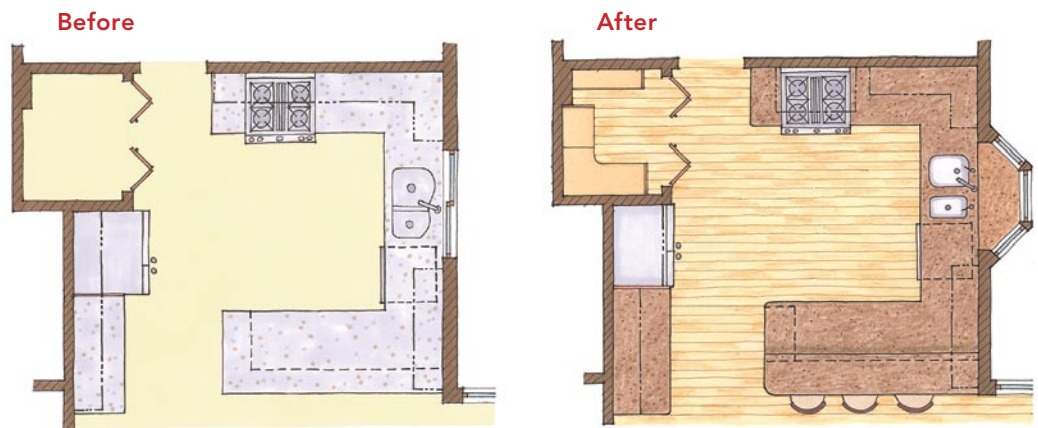


# A Major Tune-Up Revives a Tired Kitchen

Knowing what to keep is as important as knowing what to throw overboard

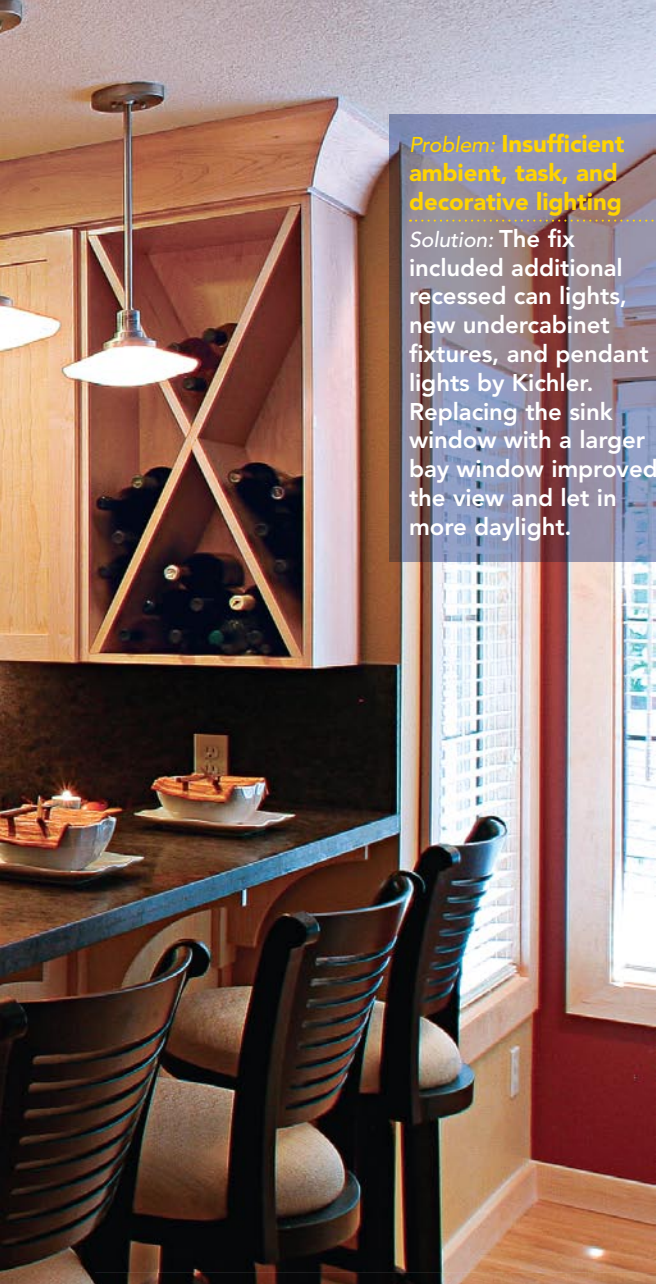
**Problem:** No place for guests to congregate  
**Solution:** A new raised countertop offers barstool space, a place for informal meals, and a visual barrier from the dining area, minimizing the view of kitchen clutter.

It can take a little while to discover a home's deficiencies. For Jon Waterhouse, the previous owner's amateurish do-it-yourself cabinets and tilework were evident from the outset. But it took a couple of months and a few dinner parties to cast a harsher light on the kitchen's true shortcomings. Waterhouse started keeping track of the things that needed improvement to get the most from this all-important room, beginning with making a good place for guests to congregate.



**Design:** Julia Williams, West Linn, Ore.; [www.juliawilliamsinteriors.com](http://www.juliawilliamsinteriors.com)  
**Construction:** RC Belt Construction Inc., Portland, Ore.

0 1 2 4 ft.



**Problem: Insufficient ambient, task, and decorative lighting**

**Solution:** The fix included additional recessed can lights, new undercabinet fixtures, and pendant lights by Kichler. Replacing the sink window with a larger bay window improved the view and let in more daylight.



## Cool detail

A pop-up Convenience Outlet from Doug Mockett & Company puts power on the counter next to the bar top.



**Problem: Not enough storage space**

**Solution:** New cabinets are augmented by lazy-susan storage inserts (see p. 102) at each inside corner, which conceal trash, recyclables, and cookware. The pantry closet now includes shelving and wire storage baskets.



BEFORE

## "aha!" moment

The pivotal design decision sometimes is knowing when not to make a major change. After exploring numerous options, designer Julia Williams came to the inescapable conclusion that the original plan offered the most efficient use of this space. It simply needed refining.



**Problem: Claustrophobic feel**

**Solution:** Replace the ponderous upper cabinets, ungainly soffits, and too-big refrigerator with a shallower fridge, no soffits, and new upper cabinets that reach to the ceiling to give the room a lift.