

Lofty Ideas

Local architects bring style and space together for one Philly family.

*** PERFECT MATCH!**
Complete the look with a soothing wall color like Sherwin-Williams paint in Spearmint No. 6465.



Owners:
Michele Frank
and Craig Smith
Location:
Spring Garden

The Dream: Owners Michele Frank and Craig Smith needed a larger kitchen for their growing family. They wanted to create a practical space that could be used for entertaining as well as everyday meals. Kevin Rasmussen and Vivian Su of Rasmussen/Su Architects conceived a loft-like floor plan that allowed them to remove walls, add beams and accentuate the tall ceilings.

STOOL: PHOTO COURTESY OF ONEWAYFURNITURE.COM; VENTILATION HOOD: PHOTO COURTESY OF FRIGIDAIRE; LAMP: PHOTO COURTESY OF LOWE'S CO.

* Expert Tips:

■ To manage the renovation budget, Rasmussen suggests reusing appliances that are in good working order. By splurging on only a few new items for the renovation, you “can keep costs down and update later on as funds allow,” says Rasmussen.

■ For kitchens of any size, consolidated storage units and space-saving arrangements are important. “We love the concept of not putting conventional wall cabinets everywhere, but rather concentrating

them on one wall,” says Su. This allows you to keep the space more open and airy. “We’re big fans of appliance garages to reduce counter clutter and still keep things really accessible,” says Rasmussen. He also suggests incorporating big, deep drawers for kitchen storage, which will eliminate swinging doors but still keep items close at hand.

■ Make the most of the square footage you have, even if that means knocking down walls or subtracting area from another room. “It

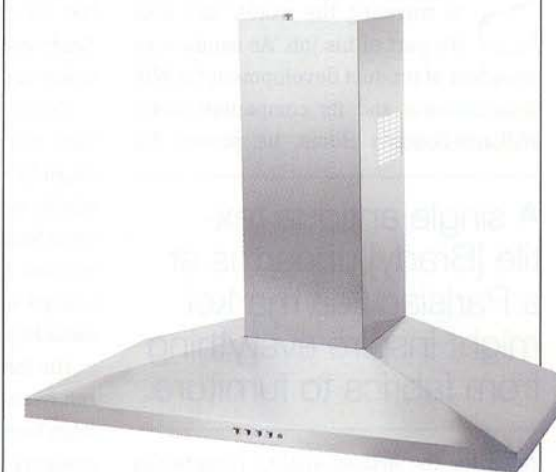
takes a lot of space to create a true U-shaped kitchen with an island,” warns Rasmussen. “But if you can carve out the space, it really makes a difference in terms of usability.”

■ Rasmussen and Su also advise installing extra-high backsplashes—larger than the usual 4-inch variety—all over. “This conceals outlets and switches, which can then be blended into the splash,” says Su. A taller backsplash also tricks the eye into thinking the space is larger. —Nicole Goldman

Aluminum Frame stool, \$169,
OneWayFurniture.com



Frigidaire 36-inch range hood,
\$1,159, C&D Appliance



Kichler 1 Light Glacial Collection
Mini pendant, \$30, Lowe's



OWNERS' TIP: If you trust the architects or designers you've chosen, be open to suggestions even if they conflict with your original vision. “We were adamant about wanting our [redesign] to be open from the front to the back, but Kevin and Vivian kept suggesting that some discreet separations, such as between the dining room and the kitchen, would work better,” admits Frank. “They finally convinced us, and we couldn't be happier.”