



AFTER

goes from blah to breathtaking

Frank Allison, a Havertown homeowner, wanted to give his wife, Eileen, a kitchen she could be proud of. Their existing kitchen was dysfunctional, old and in bad shape. After the couple spoke to several contractors without any luck, a friend recommended the Allisons turn to William Hillman, a fourth-generation carpenter and owner of William F. Hillman Carpentry LLC, of Narberth, for help.

“The first few contractors we talked to only wanted to do the mechanical part of the kitchen installation and had no interest in working with us and overseeing the entire project from layout to paint-

By Kerri Penno

Photos by William Hillman

Above: A&C Kitchens and Baths helped the homeowners select their Kraftmaid cabinets and design the new room.

Left: Before the remodel, the kitchen had insufficient lighting, an outdated drop ceiling and aged cabinets and appliances.





The original kitchen lacked both preparation and storage space due to poor layout and inadequate countertops and cabinets.

ing,” Frank says. “When we met Bill, there was an immediate comfort. He was professional and understood what we wanted. After he explained his recommendations for the kitchen, we knew we wanted to work with him.”

“My first impression was everything has got to go and the layout wouldn't work,” Hillman says. The lack of cabinet space provided inadequate storage and forced the homeowners to use the minimal counter space for storage, leaving little to no preparation area. The one functional base cabinet and shallow wall cabinets were well past their prime.

The room's layout contributed to space problems. Three corners of the room were occupied by doors and a window and one wall was consumed by a seldom used path to the dining room. Additionally, the kitchen had a drop ceiling.

A NEW DESIGN TAKES SHAPE

The obvious first step was to change the room's layout. The biggest issues were the doors and windows. The home's structure provided enough space in an adjoining room to relocate the door leading to the basement and move the basement stairs. “The Allison's were more than happy to see the pass through disappear,” Hillman says. Additionally, the team relocated the windows.

The new room design gave the homeowners a U-shaped kitchen

space to work with. With a room layout in hand, the Allison's went to A&C Kitchens and Baths to select

their cabinetry.

As luck would have it, the first sales person they ran into at A&C was David Shellenberger, a past

prodigy Frank had coached. Shellenberger worked through style and layouts with the Allison's until he understood their needs.

“We really did not know what we wanted,” Frank says. Shellenberger encouraged the couple to begin by walking around the showroom and identifying styles they liked and didn't like. “He listened to our comments about everything we looked at,” Frank says. “Then, he designed a great kitchen my wife loves.”

KEYS TO SUCCESS

The homeowners wanted to keep their kitchen project within a tight budget of \$30,000. “That was a big help because it gave me a target and narrowed our selection groups,”

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-Frank Allison, homeowner

Hillman says.

“In order for this kitchen to come together within budget,

everything had to fall in place without a hitch,” Hillman says. Any delay would have caused problems. “The key was a team, from the carpenters, to the plumber, electricians, painter and the cabinet supplier, that all worked together seamlessly,” Hillman says.

“The other key to the budget was product selection,” Hillman says. Finishes and items were selected for style, function and economy. “The Wilsonart laminate floor goes perfectly with the cabinetry and is durable and relatively inexpensive,” Hillman says.

The base for the new kitchen was the Kraftmaid cabinets the Allison's found at A&C Kitchens and Baths. The team chose a stainless steel Kenmore stove and refrigerator, a Sears dishwasher and GE microwave to complement the new look. The homeowners selected a Moen sink and faucet and sapphire granite countertop. To finish the room, the team replaced the drop ceiling with drywall and installed task lighting.

“We spent a lot of time reviewing products and finding the best values,” Hillman says. “I truly believe that a beautiful, functional kitchen



The renovated kitchen contains a sapphire granite countertop.



AFTER

Closing off a doorway and relocating a window allowed the team to capitalize on useable space in the room.

“I truly believe that a beautiful, functional kitchen does not have to break the bank. Quality can be affordable.”

*-William Hillman, owner,
William F. Hillman Carpentry*

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HAPPY CUSTOMERS

The end result won a Contractor of the Year Award for kitchens under \$30,000 from the DelChester chapter of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI). For Hillman, the highlight of the project was happy customers at the kitchen's completion.

The Allison's were thrilled with the contained costs, their relationship with the contractors and the

finished product. “The project was in budget and the workmanship is first class,” Frank says. “We could not be happier.”

William F. Hillman Carpentry LLC, P.O. Box 151, Narberth, is a member of NARI. For more information, visit www.hillmancarpentry.com or call 610-645-9444.

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