

## Kalamazoo woman's remodeled kitchen includes solid cherry cabinets, granite countertops and stainless steel appliances

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By **Booth Features**

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After being on vacation while her kitchen was being remodeled, Patricia Kozminske, of Kalamazoo, remembers coming home to find the cabinets installed and the room enlarged.

She was so surprised at the change that she remembers thinking, "What do I need all this kitchen for? I'll never fill these cabinets."

A few months later, Kozminske, who likes to cook, says she's doing a good job of using all the space.

What prompted her to embark on a major remodel was that the old kitchen in the home where she's lived for 13 years needed to be updated and the linoleum was coming up in places.

"I wanted to open it up because I entertain," she says. "I just had a small dining room and to get eight people in there was very difficult."

To find a contractor, she attended the Home Show, where she found **All-Star Remodeling & Design** of Kalamazoo.

When Dan Tyler, president of All-Star, saw her kitchen, it was basically a 12 by 12 U-shaped area, with built-in plywood cabinets and laminate countertops, he says.



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All-Star Remodeling & Design

Patricia Kozminske's Kalamazoo kitchen after it was remodeled by All-Star Remodeling & Design.

"It had a drop grid ceiling for the lights with a bulkhead that went all the way around, so it was really small and tight," he says.



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All-Star Remodeling & Design

Patricia Kozminske's Kalamazoo kitchen before it was remodeled by All-Star Remodeling & Design.

### **A brand new kitchen**

Kozminske decided to take out the partition between the kitchen and the formal dining room, enlarging the opening into what was the living room to make that into the new dining area.

The bulkhead was removed and new 8-foot cabinets were installed that went all the way to the ceiling.

"It changes the whole look and feel and dynamics of the kitchen. It just lifts it up," Tyler says. "It makes it look taller, with a

more open feel."

The new cabinets are solid cherry stained in a cabernet finish. Specialty cabinetry includes a 6-foot wide, 8-foot tall wall pantry, tilt-out sink drawers, and slow-close hardware on all of the drawers.

The shelving was taken out of the existing closet pantry and a desk was put into that area behind the bifold doors.

"You walk into my kitchen and you never know that there's a desk in there," Kozminske says. "You think maybe it's a pantry. That's working out great. Instead of putting all my material on my counter, I put it on my desk."

The countertops are granite, featuring black, mauve and burgundy. A tile backsplash in a subway brick pattern was installed over the granite and under the cabinets.

Everything in the kitchen — from the appliances to the windows — was relocated, Tyler says. With that rearranging, Kozminske gained an island and a corner stove — a design element that makes it a focal point.

The new appliances are stainless steel, including the stove, which has a warming drawer in the bottom, he says, but there's an additional warming drawer in one of the cabinets.

The island has an open bookshelf end and one of the cabinets is open for storing cookbooks, Tyler says. The back wall was opened up with triple-casement windows, which helps showcase the backyard landscaping.

Can lighting replaced the recessed drop grid lighting while pendant lights were installed over the peninsula and the island. There's also under-cabinet lighting throughout the kitchen.

"I love that," Kozminske says of the under-cabinet lighting. "I wanted it on a dimmer switch. You can turn it on high or on low. If I just want one light on, I can just do the one, instead of having them all on, which is great."

The new flooring is porcelain tile with the look of slate in strong colors of reds, blues and grays.

In front of the patio door, a pattern was created in the tile so that it almost looks like an area rug. It has a pewter perimeter border with a diamond tile pattern in the center with pewter corner insets.

Now that the kitchen is done, Kozminske says she is pleased. It's roomy and everything is convenient for when she's cooking.

And with the holidays just a few weeks away, she'll get a chance go into full entertaining mode for family and friends — in a brand new kitchen.

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