

## Case Study #5

### **PROJECT M PLUS CORP.**

Architecture and Design Studio // Silver Lake, CA



## The Dodd-Chen Kitchen Renovation

LOS FELIZ, CALIFORNIA

The Dodd-Chen's four level home in the Los Feliz neighborhood of Los Angeles had been largely unchanged since the 1980's. With a garage on ground level, living room on the second level, and kitchen and dining rooms on the third level, and bedrooms on the top - the house felt disjointed. Both avid chefs, this couple planned on renovating the kitchen when they purchased the house 5 years earlier. The kitchen was tucked into the back corner of the 3rd floor. It was dark and felt isolated from the rest of the home, with limited storage and counter space for proper cooking. The goal of the renovation was two fold, first, to open up the cramped space by adding natural light, and connections to the back yard and the rest of the house. And second, to add counter and storage space, while incorporating a built-in kitchen table dining - a space for casual dining and cooking with their young daughter.

To better connect the kitchen to the rest of the home, McShane Murnane, Architectural Director of Project M Plus, removed a large part of the wall adjacent to the down stairs living space, bringing in more light and creating a visual and audible relationship to the main living areas. To make up for the loss of wall area to hang cabinets on, Murnane designed wall-to-wall full height cabinets on the opposite side of the space, and had to move the south-facing window looking onto the back garden. A larger window was purchased, and centered over the new built in kitchen table. To further open up the space, the original 3 ft. double door to the back garden, was swapped out for a 5 ft. exterior sliding door and aligned with the adjacent stairs.

Project M Plus designed a built in walnut top butcher-block table with cabinet storage below and a bookshelf for cookbooks, teapots and other kitchen accessories easily accessible to the whole kitchen. Details like an appliance nook allow the family to stash away appliances (and technology) while keeping them accessible. Paint colors and flooring were updated but remained in keeping with the rest of the house.

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### CONTACT

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### **The Dodd-Chen Kitchen** ( CONTINUE )

LOS FELIZ, CALIFORNIA

Custom cabinets in stained ash (grey) replaced the original worn oak cabinets. Warm white Caesar stone counters were chosen for their modern feel and durability. Project M Plus used an Ann Sacks, oval shaped wall tile to play off the curvilinear post-modern elements of the home and the couple's collection of Japanese pop art prints. The hand made tile brings in a fun pattern and organic texture. A pair of hand blown glass pendants over the butcher block table echo the shape of the tile pulling together a classic but playful look.

#### **ABOUT PROJECT M+**

Going into their fourth year of business, husband and wife team Cleo and McShane Murnane oversee a group of designers that make up Project M Plus, an integrated design and architecture firm based in Silver Lake. With residential and commercial projects ranging from remodels to ground-up construction and development, this young firm is offering creative design solutions to a wide array of clients. Along with architecture and interior design, Project M Plus offers 2D services ranging from branding, graphic design, and creative direction.

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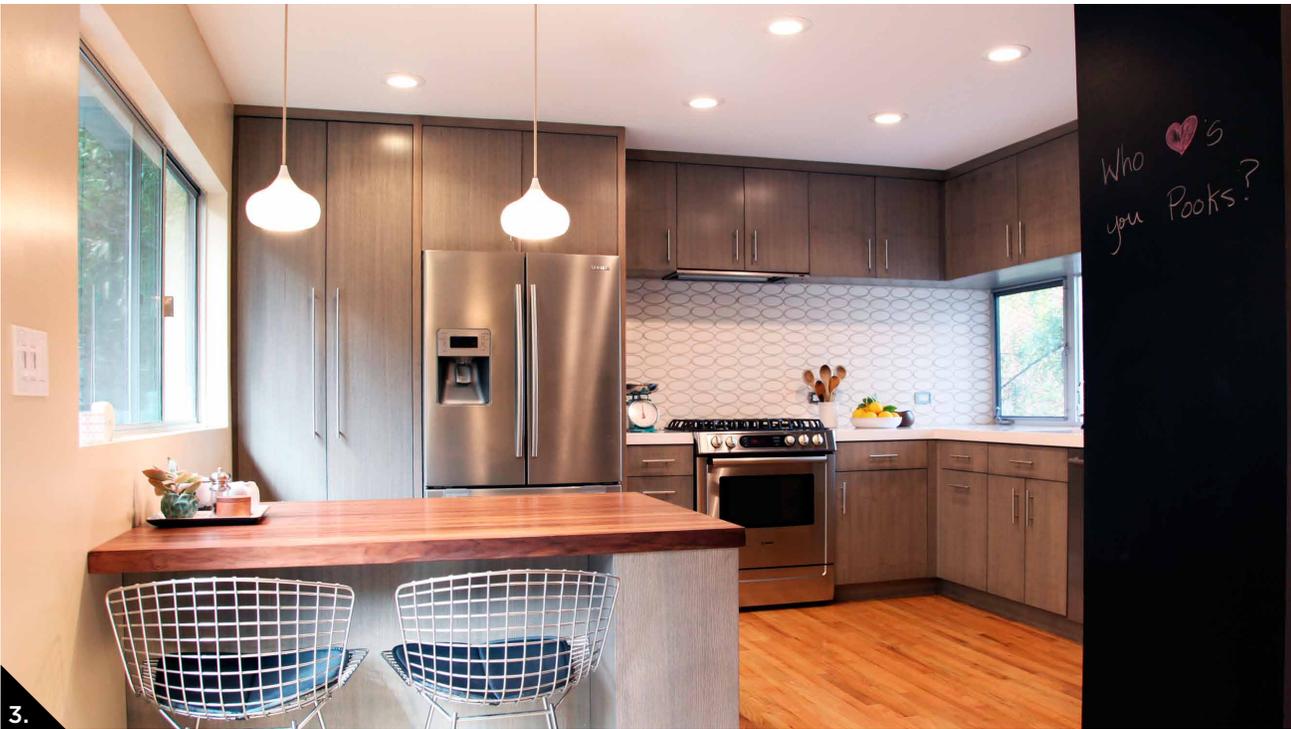
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1. Appliance niche for storage

2. Counter to Soffit window, view to street from sink area, with Caesar Stone counters

3. Remodded kitchen with in-room seating, new window, and Peter Bowles drop pendant lighting.

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4. Appliance niche for storage

5. Tile detail, Ann Sacks. Meyer Lemons from the owners tree in the back yard.

6. Walnut top butcher-block table with cabinet storage

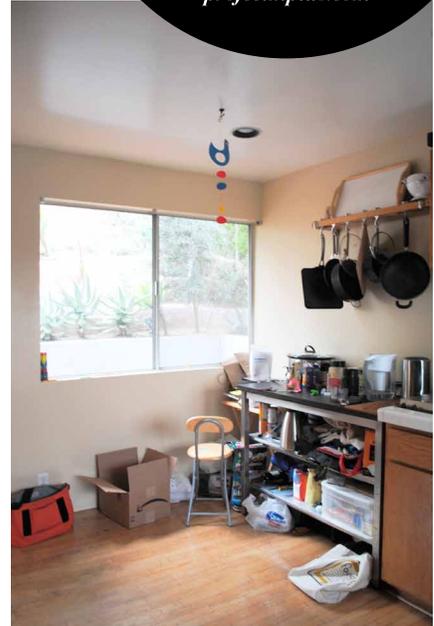
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Before



After



### AT A GLANCE

By utilizing a more efficient layout Project M Plus was able to let in more light with larger openings & less walls while at the same time increasing cabinet volume by 25%.