

[in the kitchen]

from renters to renovators

After years of dealing with rental kitchens, this couple got to cook up their own.



before

The kitchen in the house they bought was a blank slate.



after

Katherine and Owen with Grayson, 7 months

[in the kitchen]



after



open shelves
From the start, Katherine had them in mind to give the kitchen an airy look. Custom shelves, stained the same tone as the floor, are especially cool wrapped around a corner. Brass brackets by Rejuvenation match the cabinet knobs and pulls.

lighting
The couple's rentals had meh lighting they weren't allowed to change. "We were thrilled to put in pendants that make a statement," says Katherine. Industrial ones from Circa Lighting have an aged iron finish that plays off the range and soapstone counters.

backsplash
At 2 inches by 8½ inches, white ceramic tiles by Sonoma Tilemakers are thinner and wider than subway tiles for a not-so-standard effect. A huge expanse of them makes the space seem even larger.

That new kitchen feeling is even sweeter when you've designed your dream one after living in a series of duds. For years, Katherine and Owen Denby rented apartments with cooking spaces that fell short—either too bland, too small, or both. "We never had real storage," says Katherine. "We've had to keep pots on top of cabinets." When the pair bought a house in Chevy Chase, MD, they scored 285 square feet of kitchen—plenty to work with, but there was not a speck of color, and the cabinets were 40-plus years old. They were eager to get started. Teaming up with designer Kiera Kushlan, they had the floors refinished and put in new cabinets, shelves, and an island painted a this-is-us blue. White tile on the walls with contrasting black countertops (they're soapstone) and a trio of pendants created fresh style. At last, says Katherine, "we have a place where we actually want to hang out and enjoy a glass of wine while making dinner. That never happened in our old kitchens!"

island
Talk about a fantasy island! Painted Harlequin Blue by Benjamin Moore, it's the centerpiece of the room. Like the shelves, the black walnut top was stained to match the floors. Leather and wood barstools from Serena & Lily bring in more warm tones.

after



window seat

The ultimate personal touch: a built-in bench with storage underneath, upholstered in ticking-stripe fabric by Perennials. "It's a great spot for snuggling with Grayson," says Katherine. Sconces by Schoolhouse Electric make it even more inviting.

Perforated metal doors hide the heating and cooling unit but let air flow.

before



in the kitchen



pendant

Hinkley Lighting Winnie 18"-diameter steel pendant, \$399, build.com



pillows

From left: Urban Habitat Brooklyn 20" x 20" cotton pillow in blue, \$25, bedbathandbeyond.com; Lavender Mughal 18" x 18" linen and cotton pillow, \$49, spoonflower.com; Anaya 20" x 20" linen pillow in mint green, \$103, perigold.com



teakettle

Anniversary 2-quart enamel-coated-steel teakettle in canary yellow, \$40, chantal.com

counter stool

Opalhouse Ceylon 29"-tall rubber wood and leather counter stool in brown, \$160, target.com



now get the look



faux flowers and pitcher

Astoria Grand Real Touch 10"-tall silk flowers in light coral, \$22, wayfair.com; Emma Beaded 6 3/4"-tall stoneware pitcher in white, \$35, potterybarn.com



glasses

Etched Floral 11-ounce glass tumblers in green and blue, \$36 for each set of 2, shopterrain.com



art

Blur by Emily Grady Dodge 11" x 14" unframed print, \$41, artfullywalls.com

tray

Phala 12"-diameter rattan tray, \$31, manava-cambodia.com



runner

Mystic 2'6" x 7' wool runner, \$150, eq3.com

