



# Moorish appetizer

Three previously disparate spaces are the ingredients in a kitchen makeover that invites people to linger over their meal

**The downside to living in a period home,** or one that follows the strict dictates of a particular style, can be that interior spaces are at odds with a modern lifestyle.

One area in which this is particularly true is the kitchen. While it's commonplace to have an open-plan kitchen these days, traditionally, kitchens were separate from other living areas.

The owners of this Spanish-style house wanted to inject some character into the kitchen, while improving its functionality, says interior designer Melissa Salamoff.

"The original kitchen didn't have the same richness as the rest of the home, and was outdated. Located between a small eating area and utility space with exterior access, it also lacked aesthetic cohesion."

Working within the same footprint, the designer first set about tying the three spaces together to achieve harmony.

"Creating uniformity began with painting the walls and ceilings of the three rooms in the same soft green color so they read as one space," says Salamoff. "This creates a warm, comforting atmosphere."

**Above left:** To establish cohesion between the kitchen and adjoining rooms of this Spanish-style home, designer Melissa Salamoff painted the rooms the same color – including the ceilings. The color palette was influenced by the Moroccan-style courtyard, as well as the handmade tiles that feature throughout.

**Above:** Open shelving and glass-fronted cabinets provide storage without the bulk of standard cabinetry. Although the designer couldn't increase the footprint of the kitchen, she was able to raise the ceiling level to accommodate this additional, much-needed storage.



With the spaces presenting a consistent look, the focus shifted to improving the overall functionality. Maximizing storage was a priority, and the design employed a number of stratagems to provide this, including concealed utility drawers in the toe-kick space below the base cabinets, says Salamoff.

“Creating additional space was really the key design driver, and ranged from creating a small niche shelf above the stove for spices, to raising the ceiling to incorporate overhead cabinetry.”

To prevent the kitchen from looking closed in due to the extra cabinets, the designer chose to use open shelving and glass-fronted cabinets on the kitchen sink side of the space.

“The remodel also provided us with the opportunity to make more of the adjoining eating area,” says Salamoff. “Originally, the space just contained a table and chairs and was not a place you would want to spend all day in.

“To make the area more attractive and functional, we incorporated built-in

seating with soft cushions and colorful pillows, and drawers for storage below. This has been augmented with a full-height media and storage unit that houses a small television and bookshelves.”

“Together this has made the space somewhere to eat, work, read the paper, watch TV or just hang out – creating a kitchen area that is as comfortable as the rest of the home.”

➔ See more images of this project at [Trendsideas.com/go/32315](https://www.trendsideas.com/go/32315)

**Interior designer:** Melissa Salamoff, Salamoff Design Studio (Burbank, CA)

**Cabinet company:** Mark Edwards, Edwards Construction

**Cabinetry:** Custom cabinetry finished in Basketry by ICI Paints

**Hardware:** Von Morris hinges; Ashley Norton Bronze Collection cabinet knobs from Mission West Kitchen and Bath; ice box latches from Crown City Hardware

**Countertop:** Black honed quartz from Mission West Kitchen and Bath

**Wall tiles:** Handmade ceramic encaustic tiles with custom-colored Moroccan-style field and border from Mission West Tile

**Dining furniture:** Built-in bench seating with cushion covered in Unika Vaev Bijou fabric in Onyx

**Paints:** Dunn-Edwards Weather Board #DE6222

**Lighting:** Cree recessed LED downlights

**Blinds:** Smith and Noble Zen woven roller shade in Cocoa

**Kitchen sink:** Rohl Allia in White from Mission West Kitchen and Bath

**Faucets:** Rubinet Flemish bridge faucet, handspray and dispenser from Mission West Kitchen and Bath

**Stove:** Viking

**Ventilation:** Modern-Aire wall hood

**Refrigeration:** LG French door with ice and water

**Dishwasher:** Fisher & Paykel DishDrawer

**Facing page top and above:** Black honed quartz counters contrast the other, more mellow colors. A Moroccan-themed tile was used for the backsplash, referencing other design touches in and around the home.

**Above:** The designer introduced built-in seating to the eating area to help with storage, and to also add an extra dimension to the functionality of the space. All-day sun and comfortable seating has now made the room a much sought-after space.

**Story by Justin Foote  
Photography by Val Riolo**