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A WELCOMING RENOVATION IN PENNINGTON
COLOR SPEAKS VOLUMES IN RUMSON
GLEN RIDGE MAKEOVER

Worth the Weight

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PHOTOS BY VIC WAHBY
DESIGN BY DAWN HEIFETZ

A SUPPORT SYSTEM BOOSTS A SCOTCH PLAINS RENOVATION

Styling the truss was a big process, designer Dawn Heifetz says. Varying bolt types and beam sizes were considered for the framework, which was stained to match the floor.





Much of the sprawling 1960s ranch had already been renovated; all but one room, in fact. Homeowners Lisa and Ted Schiller wanted their kitchen to catch up to the rest of the house. “Lisa loves to cook,” designer Dawn Heifetz says. “She wanted a big kitchen with lots of light that would be open to the dining room with no columns, just a big open space.”

It was the lack of columns in the expansive space that would prove to be a challenge for Heifetz, owner and principal of DPH Designs LLC in Scotch Plains. Enlisting the help of Hildie Lazar of Lazar Architecture in Scotch Plains and Mike Mroz of Michael Robert Construction in Westfield, Heifetz found a way to create the wide-

open spaces the homeowners wanted in their kitchen while ensuring that the roof stayed safely up.

The solution was the installation of a custom wood truss to support the roof of the existing house along with the addition. “It involved some good engineering and a contractor who was willing to go the extra mile,” the designer says. However, the procedure did not involve unwieldy lifting of a weighty beam. “They shored up the entire roof first and then built the truss in place before they released the columns so they didn’t have to lift it up into place,” Heifetz explains. “The whole process of building it was very cool.”

The raised ceiling was also a complicating factor when it came to

The 8-by-8-foot island is topped with book-matched quartz.

“A lot of thought was given to the function of each and every drawer,” Heifetz says of the storage options in the kitchen.





installing the cabinetry, requiring soffits to define the spaces above the side cabinet wall and the range hood. “We made them their own blocks of mass rising up to meet the cathedral ceiling.”

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The ceiling is the crowning glory on an interior design that features a neutral palette with minimal accessories. “The style is transitional, with a slightly rustic tilt,” Heifetz says. The floor, the stools and that all-important truss — which was stained to match the floor — are rustic components. “But a lot of the design elements are sleek and modern.” The custom zinc and stainless steel hood brings an industrial note to the space. Brass cabinet hardware adds another metal to the mix.

White cabinetry gives the room a clean look, both figuratively and literally, offering ample storage and minimizing disorder. “Lisa wanted everything clutter free,” Heifetz says. Cabinetry along the side wall incorporates two appliance garages to keep bulky kitchen gadgets out of sight. The extra-large island — 8 feet by 8 feet — offers additional storage plus a seating area and space for food prep.

Though this project’s technical complexities lengthened the timeline a

The large stainless steel range is topped with a custom hood made of stainless steel and zinc. At left, barn doors mark the entry to the pantry.

bit, everyone involved embraced the challenge. “It was a long process,” Heifetz says, “but it was a great team effort between the client, myself, the architect, the contractor, the cabinet guys — even the lighting guys who installed custom LED lighting under cabinets. Everyone was into the creativity of the whole thing.”

SOURCES designer, Dawn Heifetz of DPH Designs LLC in Scotch Plains; architect of record, Hildie Lazar, AIA, of Lazar Architecture in Scotch Plains; builder, Mike R. Mroz of Michael Robert Construction in Westfield; cabinetry, Hope Wood Craft in Martinsville; countertops, Bridgewater Marble & Granite in Bound Brook; range and refrigerator/freezer, Thermador; hood, Modern-Aire Ventilating Inc.; flooring, Carlisle Wide Plank Floors; beverage center, U-Line Corp.; faucets, Waterstone; sink, The Galley; cabinet hardware, Armac Martin; sconces and island stools, Arteriors Home.

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