



### PROBLEM

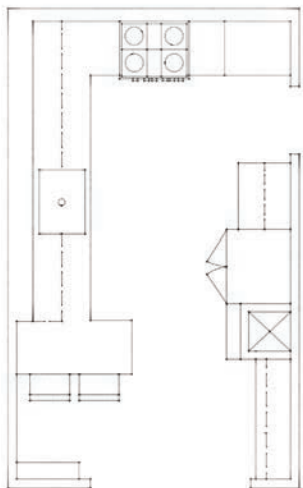
A dark, outdated condo kitchen

### SOLUTION

Hire a pro to create a functional contemporary space

### FLOOR PLAN

**160**  
sq. ft.



# kitchen *haven*

A cramped, unwelcoming 1980s condo kitchen undergoes a major makeover to suit its discerning octogenarian owner.

TEXT LESLEY YOUNG | PHOTOGRAPHY DONNA GRIFFITH | STYLING MORGAN LINDSAY



**ABOVE** The breakfast bar was lowered to the same height as the counter for ease of use and a level sightline. "I didn't want to add furniture, so a breakfast bar with stools

was just right for enjoying a cup of coffee," says homeowner Sheila Siegerman. Initial plans included a second vaulted ceiling, but existing ductwork kiboshed the idea.

**DESIGN**, BedfordBrooks Design, [bedfordbrooks.com](http://bedfordbrooks.com); **STOOLS**, Nirvana Home Collection; **APPLIANCES**, Tasco; **SINK, FAUCET**, Taps Bath Centre; **RUG**, Indaba; **LIGHT FIXTURE**, Union Lighting and Furnishings; tall **PEPPER MILL**, Hudson's Bay.

When retired theatrical set designer Sheila Siegerman stopped driving, she went shopping for a condo in downtown Toronto within walking distance of amenities. The downside of the spacious unit she picked was its cramped, windowless kitchen. A renovation was in order, and she knew full well what to expect, having experienced a few over the years. “Of course, one of the dangers of starting a renovation are the words, ‘while we’re at it...’” she jokes. Not that Sheila has regrets: In fact, she was involved at every stage of the project, and even hit up some stores with her designer, Peter Brooks.

**The planning process** When Sheila was introduced to Peter by her real estate agent, she told him exactly what she wanted: a bright and functional kitchen. Peter drew up a few layouts before Sheila decided on one that featured lots of cabinetry, a small breakfast bar and a coffee nook to house her luncheon dishes and cookbooks. “Eliminating cabinets over the cooktop really opened up the space,” explains Peter, adding that having narrow drawer columns on either side of it creates a strong focal point that also widens the space.

**The design decisions** Sheila desired a clean, contemporary look, so Peter used sleek recessed cabinetry and kept things bright with a warm palette of creams and browns. For added function, he lowered the upper cabinets by two inches to accommodate the reach of the diminutive homeowner and installed pullout trays in all the bottom cabinets, so Sheila wouldn’t have to root around on her knees. The stunning porcelain floor tiles create lots of movement for the eye, while quartz countertops offer plenty of stain-free prep space. “A big challenge was finding a backsplash that didn’t fight with the floor,” says the designer, who eventually got the right look in a Calacatta marble with touches of cocoa.

**The end result** “I’m really happy,” says Sheila, adding that the breakfast bar is “quite a nice place to sit and enjoy a coffee.”



**ABOVE** “I originally wanted a small desk area, but there just wasn’t any room,” says Sheila, who ended up being delighted with the coffee nook.

Custom **CABINETY**, Lucvaa Kitchens; **COUNTERTOPS**, Caesarstone Canada; **BACKSPLASH TILES**, Moscone Tile and Marble; **FLOOR TILES**, Ceragres; **CABINETY HARDWARE**, Restoration Hardware; **COFFEE MACHINE** with milk frother, Hudson’s Bay; **MUGS**, large **CUTTING BOARD** with handle (shown at left), Crate and Barrel.



**ABOVE** A tall, shallow pantry directly behind the breakfast bar houses canned goods. The Calacatta marble backsplash with hints of cocoa complements the quartz countertops and highly striated porcelain-tiled floor. The painting by Canadian artist Graham Noble Norwell adds some colour.

**RIGHT** Pullout shelves were a must for this mature homeowner. Traditional cabinetry hardware contrasts elegantly with the modern cabinets.

FOR SOURCES,  
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## BUDGET *breakdown*

Here's what it'll cost you to get the look of this kitchen.

### DESIGN

**\$9,700**

Includes project coordination fees

### CONSTRUCTION

**\$22,500**

Includes demolition and installation of electrical, plumbing, millwork, lighting, countertops and backsplash and floor tiles

### MATERIALS

**\$44,700**

Includes custom cabinetry, countertops, backsplash and floor tiles, appliances, sink, faucet, light fixtures and cabinetry hardware

### TOTAL COST

**\$76,900**