The Iyer family had moved into their Edina home in 2005; even then, they knew that they wanted to give their kitchen an update. After having only a minor facelift since it was built in 1956, the Iyer’s kitchen was certainly in need of some updating. “The cabinets were very old and were beyond saving,” said Leslie Iyer. “We had extremely limited lighting, poor insulation, and an awkward, tight entry from our breezeway.”

Creating a Plan
Once the Iyers had an idea of what they were looking for in a kitchen remodel, they turned to the JBDB team to make the updates. “Our friends and neighbors had used JBDB for a similar project on their Edina home and found them to be very straightforward to work with and had craftsmen that produced really superior work in all areas,” Leslie said.
Beyond the newer features in the kitchen, JBDB worked to maintain a few of the original features of the house. The stone fireplace in the kitchen area remained the same, and the JBDB team’s design made sure to seamlessly blend their updates to complement it. The original hardwood oak flooring was refinished in a coffee-colored stain to add warmth and give it an update.

“I love the mix of materials and textures in this kitchen,” says JBDB’s designer Emily. “Oftentimes, people think that in order to make a statement, you need to use a bright pop of color or a pattern. However, using a mix of different textures and finishes can achieve a high level of visual interest, while still sticking to a more neutral color palette.”

Keeping the Family in Mind
Along with the aesthetic updates made to the kitchen, keeping the family’s needs and lifestyle in mind from a functional standpoint was also vital to the renovation. A custom landing zone was incorporated into the side of the cabinetry by the family’s breezeway – creating a space for family members to charge phones, stash mail, and hang their keys without cluttering the countertops. Custom pull-outs were incorporated to reflect the family’s needs, too – a pull-out to the left of the sink was integrated especially for compost, and one to the left of the stove was created for various cooking oils that the family frequently uses.

“JBDB provided really superior craftsmanship in all areas of home building: cabinetry, flooring, painting, electrical, plumbing, tiling; each was given serious care and planned together for a seamless final product,” Leslie said. “Our family is enjoying our new space every day, and it’s been wonderful to share it with our friends.”

“Our family is enjoying our new space every day, and it’s been wonderful to share it with our friends.” - Leslie Iyer

By working with JBDB’s designer, Emily Thull, the Iyer family was able to create a plan for an updated, cozy, and sophisticated kitchen. Leslie said, “We had a pretty good idea of what we wanted, but Emily really captured all the style that brought the big elements together – she understood the final feeling of a warm center of the home we were looking for.”

Bringing Ideas to Life
To achieve the functionality the Iyers wanted for their home, JBDB took the existing space – a combination of a small seating area, dining area, and sectioned-off kitchen – and opened up the space to make the kitchen the star of the show.

The custom cabinets were enameled white on the perimeter, while the rift sawn oak island was stained a warm-toned wood color. Honed black granite countertops provided a sophisticated and modern update, and black elements were also echoed in the matte black cabinet hardware as well as the brackets on the open shelving.

A classic white ceramic subway tile carried a subtle twist with a slightly textured finish, which was highlighted by using a contrasting grout. Champagne brass accents in the Delta faucet and the island’s light fixtures brought some extra warmth and texture to the kitchen updates, too.

“The kitchen is truly the heart of this Edina home and the updates allow this family to use and enjoy it to its full potential.”

A Note from James

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