



# A Perfect Balance: Open, Airy, and Inviting

*By Alana Willis*

**"Grand without being gradiose,"**  
is the way Denise Dickson of Renovate Partners likes to describe the company's newly-remodeled Bow Mar kitchen.

Part of a substantial home renovation that took a very compartmentalized floor plan to a completely open concept design, Dickson and designer, Dustin Mertz of HCC, worked closely together to realize their vision of a large kitchen with a small feeling that serves to enhance, rather than overwhelm its surroundings.

With its warm color palette and casual undertones, the true elegance of the kitchen is in its understated vibe. Hidden cabinets around the corner give the homeowner the necessary amount of storage space without being the center of attention. Its numerous, expansive windows and airy, open layout, allow this kitchen to host and entertain large numbers of guests while feeling equally at home hosting small, intimate dinner parties.

With "wow" countertops in Alpine white granite by DalTile perfectly offsetting Logan cherry cabinets with a smoke finish by Yorktowne Cabinetry, a theme of understated elegance is carried throughout the impressive expanse of the kitchen. Glass tiles (3x6) serve as the perfect backsplash, tying the elements together - a feature that Dickson describes as "subtle enough to complement but not take away from the granite." A large apron sink

with a gleaming stainless faucet creates a dazzling, modern effect for the kitchen island, which features decorative Logan cherry doors that match the cabinets.

Pendant lighting above the island adds just the right amount of light to illuminate the space without causing a blinding effect from the white countertops. A second prep sink is neatly tucked away toward the back of the kitchen, allowing the homeowner to take the focus away from dirty dishes while entertaining. All of these aspects blend together for a polished, high-end effect that doesn't detract from the open, warm feeling of the floor plan.

Perhaps best of all, the impressive stainless steel Jenn-Air appliances Dickson and Mertz chose for the kitchen. The 48" side-by-side refrigerator and 36" pro-style range top provide balance with the kitchen's double wall ovens, enhancing the kitchen space without overwhelming any of their surroundings. "Jenn-Air is a great brand with a very high-end look without the super expensive price tag," explains Dickson of the designer's appliance choice.

Renovate Partners, a group of investors whose primary objective is to identify quality homes deserving of remodels, collaborated closely with Mertz, as well as Mitch Westall of Blue Creek Design, to pull off this architectural



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An impressive 48-inch stainless Jenn-Air refrigerator fits in perfectly with the spacious kitchen.



tour de force. “This kitchen was a fun project,” says Mertz. “I made a couple trips out to the house to see the progress coming along. I worked with Tam Vo at Appliance Factory Fine Lines (formerly Contract Appliance) to coordinate the size of the appliances with the dimensions of the cabinets included in the layout. I also explained any installation details to the general contractors Denise worked with. Every time I went to check in on progress, I could tell

that once the kitchen was completed, it was going to look amazing. I’m very happy with the outcome.”

Mertz also had very favorable things to say about his co-collaborators at Renovate Partners. “I’ve worked with Denise Dickson and her partners, Jeff and Lorrie Eheart, on multiple occasions. We’ve produced many great-looking kitchens. But this one turned out amazing!”



A designated space for beverages and glassware.



**"We've produced many great-looking kitchens, but this one turned out amazing!"**



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