



*come one*  
**COME ALL**

Replacing a wall with an island makes this Ohio kitchen a favorite gathering spot for many friends—and lots of dogs.

{WRITER & STYLIST JUDI KETTLER PHOTOGRAPHER BRYAN MCKAY}

For the perimeter cabinets, the Westicks used natural cherrywood accented with cream-color rope trim. Because they wanted variety, they used maple painted soft cream with a pewter glaze for the two-level island.



carpenter, was on board to help, as was designer Michele Rose-Sprunk, who helped Debra figure out the intricacies of the floor plan.

After tearing down three walls, the couple needed to define spaces other ways, without closing off the kitchen or chopping up the view. A large island with a sink, dishwasher, prep areas, and seating topped Debra's wish list. Rose-Sprunk designed a two-tier island with everything Debra wanted. It also serves as the kitchen's new "walls."

"Because you can see over and around this island, it connects the kitchen to the adjacent dining area and family room, yet still defines the kitchen's borders and draws the eye to the lake view," Rose-Sprunk says. To make the island feel like furniture, Rose-Sprunk suggested a cutout in the molding below the sink.

Because the Westricks foster English springer spaniels and have as many as five dogs at a time, they needed a pet-friendly space. "Everything is really designed around the dogs,"

**OPPOSITE** Kevin does most of the cooking and knew he wanted pro-style appliances and upscale touches such as soapstone countertops and a slate tile backsplash. **LEFT** For the countertops, Debra chose soapstone because she wanted a material with texture and character that was also easy to maintain. **BELOW** Designer Michele Rose-Sprunk created this corner cabinet instead of installing the standard lazy Susan.



**EASY CLEANUP:**  
The Westricks chose a low-maintenance slate tile floor and backsplash and soapstone countertops.

**K**evin Westrick gets nervous when his wife, Debra, gets remodeling ideas. "She comes up with these projects, and then I have to find a way to do them," he says with a laugh. That explains why the Westricks have been in the process of remodeling their Whitehouse, Ohio, home for two years. Kevin might feign frustration, but he's been enjoying every moment.

The kitchen was a monster project. It was closed off from the rest of the house, with a large wall of outdated cabinets that faced the family room, a tiny half bath and bar area sandwiched between the kitchen and the living space, and windows that didn't take advantage of the home's lovely view of a lake. The Westricks were ready for massive construction. Debra's brother, Mark Lehman, a






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Kevin says. Slate flooring is durable and easy to clean, and there's plenty of room to negotiate around the island.

Rose-Sprunk worked with the Westricks on the semicustom cabinets. She designed a large pantry cabinet outfitted with five roll-out trays next to the refrigerator. She also suggested staggered cabinet heights in the corner and above the microwave. "This breaks up the horizontal lines that can make a kitchen look rigid and static," Rose-Sprunk says.

The Westricks' new kitchen is not only a big hit with the furry members of the family, it also makes entertaining easier. That's good because everyone likes coming to the lake. 

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**ABOVE** Beaded board on the island creates a cottage feel appropriate for a lake home. A counter and stools allows the cook to chat with guests. **RIGHT** The simple breakfast nook focuses on the lake view.



## {about this makeover}

### THE FLOOR PLAN



#### 1. NEW ISLAND

A wall between the kitchen and family room was removed; an island took its place.

#### 2. TWO LEVELS

A portion of the island countertop is raised for casual meals and snacks. It also keeps dirty dishes by the sink out of sight.

#### 3. WALL OF STORAGE

The refrigerator is flanked by a floor-to-ceiling pantry cabinet on one side and a countertop and cabinets on the other; the counter makes a great spot for a coffee station.

#### 4. COOKING ZONE

Kevin Westrick likes to cook, so there is plenty of landing space on both sides of the range.

### THE BUDGET

#### APPLIANCES

■ Dishwasher	400
■ Microwave oven	1,520
■ Range	3,610
■ Refrigerator	5,970

#### CABINETRY

■ Cabinets	17,355
■ Hardware	450

#### PLUMBING

■ Faucet	200
■ Sink	250

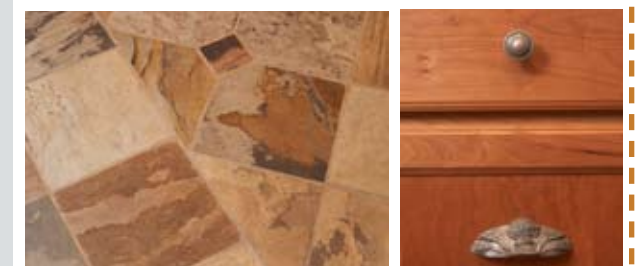
#### SURFACES

■ Backsplash	800
■ Countertop	3,400
■ Flooring	1,800

#### MISCELLANEOUS

■ Light fixtures	1,500
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**TOTAL** **\$37,255**



### THE DETAILS

**TOP** This custom wine rack makes great use of space above the refrigerator. **ABOVE LEFT** On the floor, the switch from a diagonal to a linear grid adds interest. **ABOVE RIGHT** The Westricks varied the pulls on the drawers and cabinets. The bottom bin pulls are custom, depicting crops such as wheat, peas, and beets.