

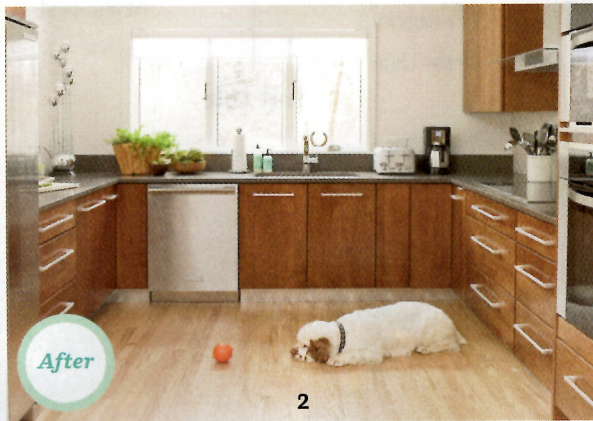
# MAKEOVER ANNIE SELKE

## PART 4

### The Kitchen/Dining Room

Interview by  
CHRISTINE PITTEL

It's sixties sleek, very clean. And now that a wall is down, the whole room opens up to the living area.



#### First reaction?

**ANNIE SELKE:** It all had to go. Mexican tile? What were they thinking?

#### But you kept the U-shaped layout.

That worked. But we took down most of the wall on the left, which was a big deal. I had to get a structural engineer to put in a supporting beam. It completely transformed the space. Now I can see the living room fireplace from the kitchen and the dining table.

#### Why did you move the dining table in here?

You're never going to sit at a dining table unless you have it right in the space you're always in. This was an oddly long room, and we built storage cabinets at one end and called it the dining room. It's kind of my *Mad Men* moment, with that sixties chandelier.

#### Did you agonize over the wood?

I was torn between light maple or sunset cherry or white paint, but the midcentury vibe seemed to dictate cherry. I always had linen-white painted cabinets in the past, but I've discovered that natural wood

is better. It doesn't show spaghetti splatters or those smudges around the knobs. My architect, John Gilmer, didn't want any handles, but I tried that once and I'm not interested in opening doors with my toes.

#### No island. How come?

I felt it would divide up the space. And I have that island-like counter opposite the cooktop. It's open to the study area, with three stools for a simple breakfast or lunch.

#### Anything you've always wanted and now have?

Well, the cabinets with all their cool features, like integrated cutting boards. I worked with Lori Leistico from KraftMaid, and she took advantage of every nook and cranny, sneaking in things like a three-inch pullout for spices to the left of the cooktop. I wanted everything to feel clean and open, so I knew I was going to need extra storage. The cabinets by the dining table are fitted with wine racks, pull-out drawers, and roll-outs for table linens.

#### Where are the controls on these appliances?

They're invisible, until you touch them—very Space

Age—and great in an open kitchen because they look so clean. Everything is Electrolux, and they're truly a joy. Have you ever had a dishwasher with a light in it? It's so quiet that sometimes we open it while it's still going. Oh, and when you open the fridge, the light inside gradually gets brighter. It's like watching the sun come up every morning.

#### Why did you choose an induction cooktop?

John said, 'Absolutely get it.' Visually, there's nothing there. I was a little intimidated at first, but now I like it because you can control the temperature so precisely. And no more yanking out grates to clean the burners.

#### Is that a Florence Knoll table?

Actually, it's a Florence Knoll base. I found it at an antiques shop and then had that 400-pound granite top cut to the exact same measurements, complete with the beveled edge. It cost a third of the price, and I got to choose my own stone. I love it!

NEXT MONTH:

THE MASTER SUITE



#### GET IT RIGHT

- **Work with a professional kitchen planner.** "They get their ya-yas out of finding a great place to put oils," Selke says.
- **Think durable.** Stainless-steel kickplates under the cabinets prevent scuffs and marry the two different woods.
- **Choose comfortable dining chairs in stain-resistant upholstery if you like long conversations.** "I grew up with Hitchcock chairs and couldn't wait to escape."

1. Selke kept the efficient U shape but streamlined the aesthetic.
2. Silestone countertops in Grey Amazon are "more subtle" than granite, she says.
3. This counter, between the study and the kitchen, is equipped with stools. Sant'Agostino tiles on backsplash from Nemo Tile.
4. Cabinets hold glassware and serving pieces. Nuevo side chairs from Annie Selke Home for Vanguard Furniture.

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