

about Homes

IN THE BUYER'S CORNER WITH BARBARA & ANNIE



KITCHEN REDUX: A METAMORPHOSIS

The Problem: How to transform a dated, divided dining room and kitchen into an elegantly modern multi-functional space for preparing food and entertaining guests.

When interior designer Linda Trilla DiDonato and husband Peter were searching for a Chicago apartment, their criteria was radically different from most downsizing couples. "We were looking for a disaster we could purchase at a discount," Linda says with a smile.

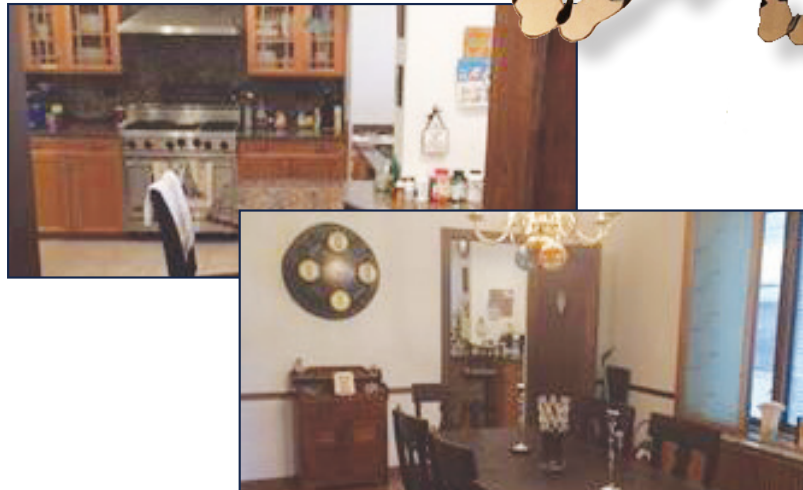
She found her perfect disaster in a vintage lakefront Lincoln Park condo that had outstanding views, magnificent plasterwork, "great bones," and many rooms that required re-imagining. Of them, the kitchen and dining room provided the biggest challenge.

As these before and after pictures clearly show, Linda and her design associate, Heriberto Ruiz, applied the savings of her initial purchase toward renovations that cleverly transfigured a cramped, dark

interior into an open airy, space. This wizardry was accomplished by removing unnecessary hall and dining room walls and repainting existing pantry doors -- along with decorating choices that include reflective lighting; white shaker cabinetry; a marble tiled backsplash and a kitchen island topped with natural quartzite.

It should come as no surprise that the inspiration for this metamorphosis is as poignant as the transformation itself. A set of antique Japanese prints picturing a swarm of butterflies hangs at the entrance of Linda's new open kitchen and great room. These prints, a gift from Peter, informed the colorways and thematic palette for these rooms and the apartment overall. The result is a vintage apartment with a modern indoor living space in perfect harmony with Lincoln Park's wide vistas and abundant natural pleasures.

BEFORE:



AFTER:



Linda DiDonato and her LTD Design Group (708.655.9858) along with general contractor William Wangler, of Wangler and Co. specialize in overcoming the plumbing, electrical and space issues vintage buildings present - Find more pictures of their interior renovations at ltdinteriordesign.com.

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