

Something BLUE

A mod blue backsplash and fresh new floorplan crank up the cool to make a once tiny kitchen feel spacious and bright.

TEXT CHRISTY WRIGHT
PHOTOGRAPHY JOEL KLASSEN



Let's face it: few homeowners are crazy about a closed-off kitchen. Throw small, awkward and cramped into the mix and it's a recipe for, if not disaster, then certainly impracticality. That's why Jeff Snyder and Tracy Campbell, the owners of this Calgary abode, hired designer Alykhan Velji to mastermind a gutsy reno. "They wanted an open-plan kitchen with space for entertaining and lots of storage," says Aly. Knocking down two adjacent dining room walls dialed up the space, but the blank canvas presented a new challenge. "Each area had to have its own focal point. I wanted an open-concept but with character and colour," explains Aly.



LEFT “The kitchen mixes timeless white and grey with matte black and a bold hit of blue,” says Aly. Contrasting caramel leather stools layer in warmth and natural texture. “I love how striking they look, offset by the blue backsplash. It’s a great mid-century modern vibe.” Look closely: the ceramic tiles have a slightly raised oval design for added depth. Aly enclosed the hood fan with black shiplap that pops off the white cabinets but is still in sync with the dining area’s millwork. The pendant lights have two-tone ceramic shades that impart interest without being overwhelming.

CABINETRY, Made to Design Woodcraft; **CABINETRY PAINT**, Sherwin Williams; **HARDWARE**, Emtex; **BACKSPLASH**, Daltile; **COUNTERTOPS**, Alberta Marble and Tile Co; **SINK, FAUCET**, Robinson Lighting and Bath; **FRIDGE, STOVE, DISH-WASHER**, Trail Appliances; **FLOORING**, Smith Bros. Flooring Ltd; **RUNNER**, HomeSense; **PENDANT LIGHTS**, CB2; **STOOLS**, West Elm.

BELOW Aly’s ingenious way to demarcate the open-plan dining area? Paint! “The dark charcoal creates a visual divide where there is none.” This storage spot also acts as a bar Aly carefully punctuated with floating shelves, a mirrored backdrop and glass-fronted cupboards. “These elements keep it feeling airy, rather than full-height solid cabinets, which would have been oppressive,” says Aly. The designer chose matte black pulls here, as in the kitchen, saying,

“Consistency is key in an open-concept home.” The oval marble table riffs on the mid-century aesthetic and feels lighter than a rectangular form. Upholstered chairs and soft linen drapes factor in inviting texture, while brass accents in the light and barware inject sparkle and warmth.

PENDANT LIGHT, Troy Lighting; **TABLE, CHAIRS**, CF Interiors; **DRAPES**, Tonic Living; **BAR CABINETRY PAINT**, General Paint.

