

# Editor's Choice AWARD

HIGHEST TECHNICAL MERIT



Stacked 48 inches high, wall cabinets are sectioned to allow for a lighted glass display at the top.

**PROJECT:**  
**A Fresh Look**

**DESIGNER:**  
Shelley Tanner, CKD

**YEARS OF EXPERIENCE:**  
18

**DESIGN PHILOSOPHY:**  
Personal practicality

**COMPANY:**  
John Cook Kitchens

**W**ITH A WELCOMING, OPEN FEEL, this redesigned kitchen now takes full advantage of the many positive design elements of the home: dramatic views of Diamond Head and the ocean, high ceilings and loads of natural light. "Clean lines and a neutral palette give this kitchen a fresh, timeless look with traditional undertones," says designer Shelley Tanner, CKD, of John Cook Kitchens.

The owner's main requests for the first-floor redesign included maximizing the open feel, capturing the view from all possible angles and updating the finishes. "The original kitchen was a dark cave inside a house filled with light," says Tanner.

The main obstruction hindering the open feel and view was the confined 19-foot by 13-foot rectangular kitchen situated between the dining and family rooms. Three sections of buttery orange floor-to-ceiling walls enclosing the kitchen were removed. "The buttery orange color just stuck out like a sore thumb," says Tanner. "Everything else was neutral."

Dated finishes were also eyesores. Buttery orange, Birdseye maple flat laminate cabinets saturated the original kitchen. Now, wide-frame Shaker-style frameless cabinets in crisp white, combined with off-white walls, provide the clean, light and airy feeling the homeowner desired. The plywood box material is Sustainable Forest Initiative (SFI) certified. The new cabinets reach almost nine feet, taking full

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advantage of the room's lofty height and providing additional storage. Other storage features include rollouts, a lazy Susan and a two-bin trash/recycle.

Lighting was also an important element. Six recessed can lights were all that existed in the previous kitchen. Now, Hudson Valley pendants in frosted white and nickel trims adorn the eating bar counter. Under-cabinet lighting provides task lighting on the prep counters. "It's nice to mix it up a bit and not have just all one type of lighting," says Tanner. "I'm a big fan of taking a lot of time with the lighting. It's important to get it right."

The end results of the dramatic makeover are truly stunning. "The homeowner is ecstatic," says Tanner. "It's open now. You can see the view and enjoy the openness. It's not a cave."