

Angela and Fred Graefenhain of Naperville know the secret to a successful kitchenremodeling project. It's as simple as finding a mix of professionals who work cooperatively and play off each other's creativity. In the Graefenhains' new kitchen, it took an artisan carpenter with a unique vision, a builder who could translate that

vision, and resident artist, Angela, who painted a meaningful mural, to fabricate an artful, fun, and functional kitchen perfectly suited to the Graefenhains' lifestyle.

Before the remodeling project, which took about six months from conception to completion, Angela says her kitchen was uninspiring, "It

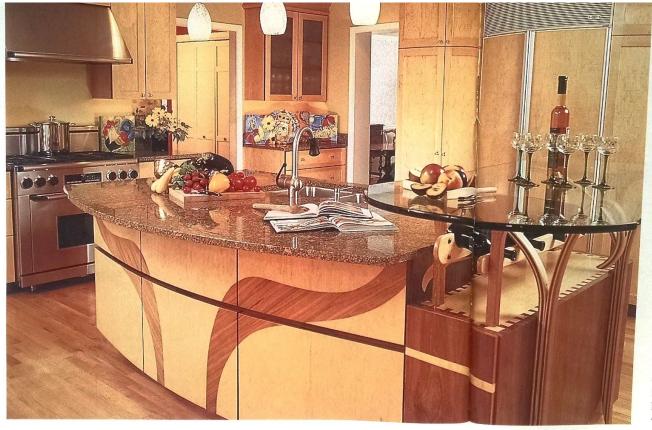
was too crowded for six people," she says. "There was no eating area and every time the refrigerator door was opened it hit someone."

All of that changed a little more than a year ago when the Graefenhains collaborated with Zenon Michalow, a master carpenter, and Patrick James Builders to transform the tooThe artist-owner's imprint cube found in the personal murthat she painted to depict accommender of the family as well as in other vibrant artworks displayed throughout the kitchen. The moveable dining table is another original design executed by the carpenter in maple and walnut.

The center island was the starting point for the new kitchen. Spacious aisles, plenty of storage, and a two-level bar were the awners' only requirements. The artisan carpenter then had free rein to create a one-of-a-kind design.

tiny space into a sunny, cleanlined kitchen uniquely their own. Original cabinetry, vivid artwork, and a 250-square-foot addition overlooking the garden combined to make an openhearted kitchen now enjoyed by the entire family. Extra-wide walkways, more than five feet wide, ensure that several people can work in this kitchen at the same time without fear of colliding.

The custom-crafted cabinetry



defines the kitchen and sets its imaginative tone. Inlaid maple on the sides of the pantries and the island blends with American than

the island blends with American walnut veneers in elegantly curvilinear plant-like shapes. Left unstained to showcase the wood grain, the cabinets and drawers give a modified Shaker feel to the contemporary setting.

Adding furniture-like appeal to the mix, storage drawers line-up below the countertops. Not only do the drawers give "a streamlined, horizontal flow to the area, but it makes finding the right pot easier," Angela explains. Brushed-steel drawer pulls and cabinet handles mirror the clean lines of the cabinet and room design.

After seeing Zenon's work, Angela had him build bookcases for the family room before the kitchen project was planned. "He is really an artisan in the old-

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world sense, unequivocally. from Zenon wa than we expect fenhains told leading to the wanted, and he sketches. From they gave him design. "We had his work," she re Zenon explai

Zenon explai much of his crea do not do a lot of ings. I can work tectural plan, but freedom to com design. It doesn't day that you have By designing du work, I see exactl to be good."

Zenon brings a ativity to his work received a carpentr native Poland after study and subsec