

Southwest-inspired apricot also drenches the dining room. The homeowner chose a glass tabletop with a black base for a more airy feeling. The sliding glass doors flow out to the new deck, arbor and terraced lawn, adding even more light to the room.



BY JENNIFER STRANGE
PHOTOGRAPHY/STEVE JOHNSON

If Ashland artist Alicia Mannix's remodeled 1960 kitchen and great room were a painting, it could be described as an abstract, industrial sun rising over a soft, Southwestern desert. And that's just what Alicia wanted — an ultra-modern kitchen that's totally open to a warm and inviting living area, all bathed in as much sunlight as possible.

from musty to modern ashland house sees the light



The kitchen was totally gutted and then rebuilt to the homeowners specifications. Stainless steel hardware, a "sun tunnel" in the ceiling and lots of glass finish off the room's clean, industrial décor.

The transformation started in the entryway of the 2,950 square foot home. It was once a dark passage leading into the kitchen with a hallway and bedrooms to the right and a small opening to the living room on the left, obstructed by a large, defunct fireplace column. "We demolished the column and rebuilt the 6'x 8' floor area," says Ashland general contractor Roger Funk, who helped Alicia manifest her vision. "That allowed a much bigger entryway."

A coat closet was constructed where the kitchen opening used to be and a 12-paned French door now leads into the "den" to the right. "I turned the front bedroom into the den," says Alicia. "I don't know why I didn't think of it sooner — it makes more sense to have the bedrooms farther down the hall and it's a perfect opportunity to open up the space."

Replacing the solid front door with a glass version invited more light into the entry, spilling over oak floors and bringing a glow to the earthy, pastel shades Alicia chose for the walls. "I looked for colors

the art of art placement

Choosing the right art for the right space in your home is an important part of interior design. "If something is off, it can disturb the whole effect of the art and of the room," says Ashland artist and art teacher Alicia Mannix.

When hanging pieces in a gallery, studio or home, Alicia considers several elements:

Size and scale. "How the negative space — the wall — frames the art is important," Alicia says. "A large painting on a small wall will decrease the size of the whole space and the opposite is true as well." For maximum effect, try to match the art with a wall of corresponding size.

White isn't the only choice of wall color when hanging art, but there are some basic color rules to keep in mind. "You don't want a direct match between art and wall," says Alicia. "Try using direct opposites on the color wheel; the eye will interpret this juxtaposition as harmony." If you've got

art with lots of blues, for instance, try it on an orange-hued background.

Frames can vary. "A big canvas could easily take a fancy or gold frame, which are popular in more urban areas," Alicia says. "Or you can let the essence of the piece or its colors speak loudly and leave it unframed, which is a more popular choice in the Northwest."

that would sweep the space with warmth and coziness," Alicia says of the Southwest-inspired apricot in the great room and kitchen.

The sunset color also makes the most of high-quality wooden paneling and built-in shelves along the home's south wall. "The guys wouldn't let me paint or drywall the wood, so we chose a color found in the paneling," says Alicia. "Because it all blends so nicely, it has turned the wooden wall from an eyesore into a design element." A creamy yellow was used in the foyer for cool contrast.

Removing a kitchen wall and building a breakfast bar in its stead added more visual space. The eating nook has fast become Alicia's favorite place for quick meals, phone calls and business. And she loves the ten extra feet of counter space she gained in her new kitchen, even though it didn't come easily. "Fitting the pre-fabricated Ikea cabinets that Alicia bought before we started the design was a challenge," Roger says. "We had to reconfigure the kitchen window and expand into the dining area."

Roger gutted the entire room and rebuilt it to suit the tall, gray cabinets with glass doors and back



Removing a kitchen wall made room for a new breakfast bar. The eating nook has fast become a favorite place for quick meals, phone calls and business. Bright, colorful art decorates the walls.



A large front bedroom was turned into a light filled den giving the homeowner a perfect opportunity to open up the space for reading and relaxing.



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The small bathroom is done entirely in black and white for an almost industrial feel.

lighting. Now a dark gray granite surface stretches from the dining area to the new pantry, with a lovely view through a picture window with a black vinyl casing. “I chose the black because it looks more modern and it matches the huge window in the living room,” Alicia says.

Stainless steel hardware, a “sun tunnel” in the ceiling and lots of glass finish off the kitchen’s clean, industrial décor. For her dining set, Alicia chose a glass tabletop with a black base and black, rail back chairs. “The glass disappears, so the eye interprets it as open space,” says the artist. The eye continues through the sliding glass

doors, out to the new deck, arbor and terraced lawn, adding even more light and space to the room.

Many of Alicia’s design decisions were inspired by her “abstract expressionism” paintings. “Unzen Mind,” hanging on a long wall next to the dining table, contains shapes and colors reflected in the surroundings — greens and blues from outside and black lines mirroring the dining room chairs.

It’s clear that Alicia had a vision — a mental “doodle” — that drove her design plans. And, just as with one of her paintings, it started to take shape, turning into something original and pleasing. ■

