



Small Wonder:

How Downsizing Your Space Can Upsize Your Enjoyment

By Alana Willis





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Kelly Sophinos Margheim and Greg Margheim

Making the decision to downsize your living space doesn't have to mean compromising the comfort, functionality, or aesthetic value of your kitchen — just ask Kelly Sophinos Margheim.

Together with husband, Greg Margheim, the couple recently downsized from their large family home in Lone Tree to a smaller new build located in the heart of the Denver Tech Center. Kelly loves living just three blocks away from her office and is quick to extol the virtues of downsizing in order to live in a more centralized location. "Downsizing for empty nesters is always a hard decision, but we have really enjoyed the process and love the fact that the space we have now is exactly what we need and use."

One of the most important steps in the move was renovating the kitchen. In order to help achieve the Margheim's objective of simplifying their lives and adding convenience, storage, and functional capability to their space, as well as to put a well-deserved spotlight on the focal point of their home, the couple turned to designer Wendy Crist of The Happening Home. "I have several friends in the industry and know a lot of great contractors," says Kelly. "I reached out to Wendy and stager, Kate Lenig from KDL Designs, for their expertise."

It didn't hurt that Kelly is good friends with both designers, which she says helped add to the overall fun and excitement of the renovation project.

The design team worked closely with general



contractor, Tim Wilson of TWW Enterprises, as well as with a master carpenter from Sweden, who installed the cabinets, built the floating shelves, and created end caps on the kitchen island. By keeping the layout of the space consistent with the original kitchen, the team was able to work quickly, finishing the project in just five weeks.

"I like the farmhouse influences in the market but it was important to me to keep it a little more upscale," explains Kelly. The kitchen utilizes contrasting light and dark-colored materials, incorporates a broad range of textures, and uses design elements that are a nod to the traditional American farmhouse.

Soft white maple cabinets from Stone International create impeccable lines against gleaming grey quartz countertops shot through with a cream-colored vein.



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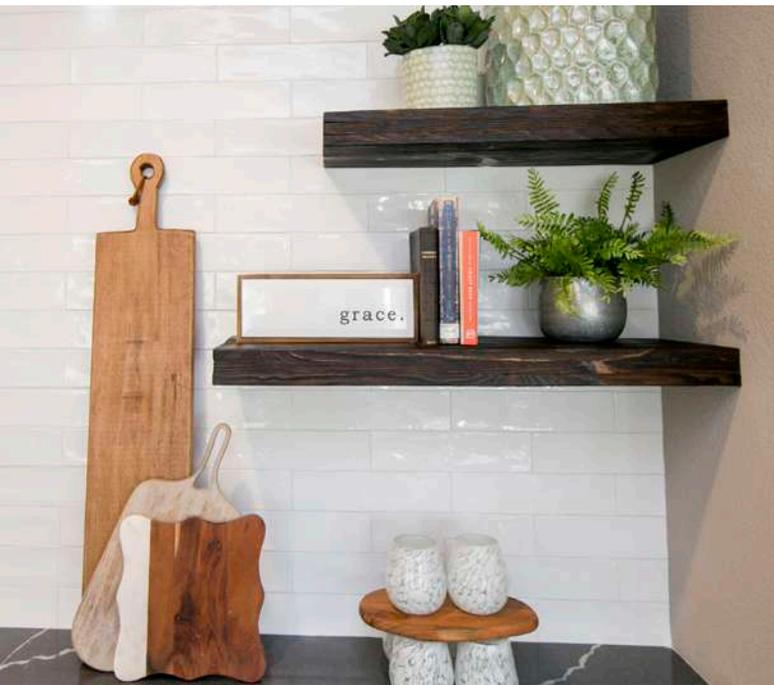
Glittering black stainless Samsung appliances from Appliance Factory & Mattress Kingdom, chosen by Kelly for their unique features, as well as for their fingerprint-free surfaces, gleam from the cabinets and create a subtle, modern presence. “Nate was so easy to work with and walked us through all the features,” says Kelly about her positive appliance-shopping experience.

A dazzling, Italian subway tile backsplash in Artisan Frost produces a cosmopolitan white-on-white effect, tying together the back walls of the main kitchen and bar area, which is a unique little nook complete with wine refrigerator and ice maker that doubles as a serving space for entertaining guests.

Red oak hardwood flooring stained with a unique combination of grey and walnut brings warmth and charm to the space and stands out masterfully from the white of the cabinetry.

“Knowing that this is a space that gets daily use, we felt it was important to keep it comfortable and functional,” she explains. “We added the coffee nook for reading and dinner prep conversation, the adjustable bar stools which work great for adults or our little grandchildren, and the cool appliance features like the dual refrigerator door and the dual oven temperatures so you can literally cook at three different temperatures all at once.”

The close-proximity of the kitchen and bar to the dining table and living area make it an open, inviting room to entertain guests. “We love to be home and always enjoy cooking and spending time with family and friends, so this gives us the opportunity to host a houseful,” Kelly says of her inventive kitchen floor plan, adding that the couple has already had a chance to host a few gatherings of various sizes. “We have enjoyed celebrations with small groups and holiday dinners with 14 or more. It doesn’t get any



better than gathering friends and family for a quick cocktail or a traditional dinner.”

Moving to a smaller home may seem daunting to those who are used to large floor plans, especially when it comes to planning dinner parties and other gatherings. However, with the right designer and a vision for what matters most to you, says Kelly, you can maximize your enjoyment while still minimizing space.

Appliances by

SAMSUNG

The Happening Home

Wendy and Tim Crist are the couple behind The Happening Home, a residential renovation company that transforms ordinary houses into dream homes. They specialize in a modern farmhouse feel while keeping in mind a thoughtful, creative, comfortable and functional design.

TWW Enterprises

Tim Wilson of TWW Enterprises, dropped out of graduate school at Mines in 1972 and became a hippie Carpenter in Steamboat Springs, CO. TWW Enterprises primarily specializes in installing kitchen and bathroom cabinets and making custom fireplace mantels and bookshelves.

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