

Neil Kelly

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PROJECT PROFILE :

Neil Kelly Design Consultant:
Therese DuBravac

Taking the Mid-Century Out of the Box

When their Realtor first pulled up in front of the West Linn Mid-Century house perched on the side of Palisades Crest Drive Rachael Miller wondering why they had even bothered. “I took one look at the front of this house and said ‘no way,’” says Rachael. “This is boring and ugly and it’s not even on our list of houses.” Once Rachael and husband Casey were inside she started seeing the dated, faded mid-century in a new light. “I looked out of the big picture windows and fell in love with the sweeping view of Mount Hood,” she said. “Then I walked into the kitchen.”

Built in 1976 and remodeled sometime in the early 80’s the home was showing its age. The kitchen was dated, lacked adequate storage, and had no personality. The home’s location and features won over Rachel and Casey—but they knew the kitchen would have to be remodeled. New to the Portland/Lake Oswego area the Millers’ enlisted their Realtor’s help in finding a design and remodeling contractor. “Neil Kelly’s reputation made the choice for us,” said Rachael.



BEFORE



After meeting Therese DuBravac Rachael felt confident that the Neil Kelly Design Consultant was the right person for the project. Rachael's goal was to take this mid-century to a new millennium. "Some people would have felt confined by the idea of keeping it a traditional mid-century," says Therese. "Rachael wanted color and fun and she wasn't afraid to go with a bold color palette." She chose a deep blue grey on the island cabinets and sage-green upper cabinets that blend with vertical-grain fir base cabinets. White subway tile and green soapstone countertops act as a neutral unifying element among the vibrant cabinet colors. The Millers now have a kitchen they are proud of and it is functional as well. "I've never designed a kitchen before and had no idea about functionality," Rachael says. "My kitchen is so functional now, and I credit Therese with that."



BEFORE

The chartreuse pantry wall provides additional storage, and home office organization, fitting into Rachael and Casey's busy family life. A complete renovation of the mud room and laundry room were also in the scope of work and carry a similar material palette to those rooms as well. Like the kitchen, special attention was given to functionality, storage and the unique use and lifestyle of the family. She also swapped out inlay carpet in the dining room for stylish slate that matches an elegant glass tile backsplash. While they had access to the wall cavity, Project Manager John Finn also replaced some outdated electrical runs. "One of the reasons we had Neil Kelly do this job is because of their Design/Build model," Rachael says. "With the leadership John Finn provided I didn't have to deal with any of the sub-contractors. I didn't have to schedule and I didn't have to worry."

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