



Nikko's father is a (retired) Swedish lamp designer and selected one of his designs for the space.

Considering a remodel?

Linda offers the following advice: "This was the second house we've renovated, and we were a bit more relaxed this time. When picking appliances or material, remember it isn't life or death. It can be changed and also to have a back-up plan. Don't stress about it. Do what we did: Find a professional who takes the time to understand your style. Then let him or her manage all of the details, solve the problems that **will** arise, and just enjoy the process – including getting your dream kitchen!"

That sounds like good advice in any language.

DESIGN SOLUTIONS

The biggest change was removing the peninsula and adding a large island which provided a secondary sink, a spacious prep surface, storage, a recycling center and a new wine fridge.

This new island also provided a bar seating area. "The family didn't want any legs to interfere with the bar stools. They wanted the bar to be open and appear to float, so we designed a cantilevered table top with a large steel C-shaped bracket that is not only structural, but also became a prominent design element," Lovell shares.

Taking Creativity to New Heights

When asked about any unexpected challenges Linda confides, "Turns out, the dream appliances that we bought were a little too big! Our stairs were too narrow, so after some tries the team had a creative solution. They lifted our Wolf refrigerator and range to the balcony with a crane, so all of the appliances got 'craned into place.' It was easier than taking down a hallway wall — and definitely more exciting."

Swedish Touches

Custom-built direct plumbing and electrical into the new island for the family's beloved espresso machine, a very important appliance for any coffee-loving Swede!

Incorporated design elements from the area Linda's family is from in Sweden. The island of Gotland is famous for their beautiful sheep skins. One of these sheep skins will soon adorn the built-in kitchen bench.

home of the month a *scandinavian-* inspired kitchen

Written by **Sunshine Morrison**
Photos by **Neil Kelly**

Linda and Nikko Strom dreamed about remodeling their kitchen for years. "When our refrigerator leaked and damaged the floors, we knew it was time!" Linda found design inspiration from her childhood in Sweden as well as her job as founder and CEO at Relocal Seattle LLC, a boutique relocation company that helps Scandinavian families navigate cultural differences when relocating to the Pacific Northwest.

On the design wish list: Scandinavian design, simple materials, attention to detail, and a light-filled color palette. The Swedish couple turned to their friend, fellow Sweden native Anna Lovell, a design consultant with Neil Kelly (www.neilkelly.com) for help.

DESIGN CHALLENGES

Kitchen Floor Plan

The existing kitchen wasted space.

Odd-angle Peninsula

Placed at an odd angle, the peninsula was too narrow to use as both a prep-surface and a bar seating area.

Changing Family Needs

With one daughter going to college, the family no longer needed a large dining table, and instead wanted a cozier bar seating area.

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Jolene Messmer
the messmer team

NMLS ID: 379952
425-445-1945
JoleneMessmer.com