



When we asked readers to send in pictures of their design-disaster kitchens, we knew we'd see some doozies...but we had no idea we'd see so many! After sifting through nearly 9,000 applications and photos, one kitchen rose to the top—like a big pink balloon. The pink palace belonged to Rachel and Ed Bozek, who moved into their first home almost two years ago but had yet to tackle their outdated kitchen. “We always had plans to redo the room, but we were overwhelmed by such a big project,” said Rachel. “We really wanted a modern, functional kitchen that felt more like us.” Enter **designer Evette Rios**, who immediately saw the possibilities hiding beneath the pastels. “This is the heart of their home, so I created a room that they’ll want to be in for years to come.”

## Interior Motives

Rach’s design buddy **Evette Rios** transforms an outdated kitchen into a stylish, modern space—with plenty of room to grow.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MELANIE ACEVEDO

**Eight electrical outlets were added around the kitchen.**

**Cabinets** Ed and Rachel were drawn to IKEA’s line of dark-wood cabinets. To keep the room looking bright and airy, Evette offset the deep chocolate stain with bright white countertops and pearly white hardware—and, of course, the graphic glass backsplash.

**DOOR TO DOOR** Akurum Cabinets with Liljestad Doors, [ikea.com](http://ikea.com) for stores and pricing information

**Flooring** After ripping out the couple’s pink and white vinyl tile floor, Evette used recycled linoleum tiles to create a new plaid pattern. “This is a great way to get a custom look for a similar price,” she said. “Buy different-colored tiles in matching sizes and lay them down in any design you like.”

**GROUND LEVEL**  
Marmoleum by Forbo  
Linoleum Floor Tiles  
\$5 to \$7 per square  
foot 866-627-6653





**Layout** In the old kitchen, the fridge and stove were installed side by side—an energy-efficiency no-no. “The fridge had to work overtime to keep itself cool when the stove was on,” said Evette. “By moving the range to the new counter area, it created a better work flow and will save money on electricity bills.”

A floating microwave frees up more counter space.

The composter hides in here.

**QUICK FIX**  
Construction and remodeling by Mr. Handyman, [mrhandyman.com](http://mrhandyman.com) for locations and pricing



**Backsplash** “The Bar Code Recycled Glass tiles by Mixed-Up Mosaics really brought this kitchen to life,” said Evette. But the tiles (\$165 per square foot, 212-643-2426) served a purpose, too: Covering the entire wall linked the kitchen area to the breakfast nook, creating one large room.



**DIRTY WORK**  
The NatureMill composter converts kitchen scraps into fertilizer and topsoil. **from \$200**  
[naturemill.com](http://naturemill.com) for stores



web

**Evette has more solutions and tips for any kitchen.**  
Watch all-new how-to videos at [rachaelraymag.com/video](http://rachaelraymag.com/video).



## KITCHEN FIX



**FILL 'ER UP**  
DOMSJÖ Sink Bowl in white \$186 [ikea.com](http://ikea.com)

**breakfast nook** (right) A soft couch, throw pillows and a couple of slip-covered armchairs transformed the empty eating area into the comfiest landing spot in the house. "A sofa is perfect for tight spots because it seats a lot of people but takes up less room than a full set of chairs," said Evette.

**storage** (below) Rachel and Ed's top request: more storage! "I had annoying corner cabinets that I hardly ever accessed because they were so hard to reach," said Rachel. Evette started by doubling the number of cabinets in their kitchen, and choosing ones that were deeper and taller than their original set. To make sure each storage spot was easily accessible, she installed a slim, pull-out rack for stashing spices and outfitted the cabinets with swivel pull-out shelves. "We have so much more space for our things," said Rachel. "I actually look forward to cooking, now that I don't have to rummage through the cabinet black hole to find a pot."

**SPICE TRAIL**  
Bamboo Base Filler Organizer  
[rev-a-shelf.com](http://rev-a-shelf.com) for pricing information



**sink** (left) The new farmhouse sink is deep enough to hold dozens of dishes and large enough to use as a work space by placing a cutting board on top. "The high faucet is helpful for filling tall pasta pots with water," said Evette.

**paint** (right) In sharp contrast to the bright backsplash, Evette chose to cover the walls of the breakfast nook in calming neutrals. "Painting the ceiling and trim the same color creates an umbrella effect," she said. "It's a subtle eye trick, but it makes the room feel much warmer."



**TRUE COLORS**  
BEHR Premium Plus Interior  
Kitchen & Bath Enamel in  
Raffia Cream (left) and Harvest  
Brown (right).  
\$27 per gallon [behr.com](http://behr.com)



Wall sconces  
and throw pillows  
create a cozy vibe.

**STATE OF THE ART**  
Oil painting on wood panel  
[dbaltzer.com](http://dbaltzer.com) for information





Line the interior of cabinet doors with cork to tack up lists and recipes.



**Morning Glory**  
Ed and Rachel enjoy breakfast in their brand-new kitchen.

#### COUNTER CULTURE

EcoTop Bamboo and Recycled Paper Countertop  
**\$35 per square foot**  
kliptech.com



**breakfast bar** The new U-shaped layout allowed room for a slim bar area overlooking the kitchen. A pair of stools are flanked by tall base cabinets for storing the couple's odds and ends. "Evette thought of everything," said Ed. "She even turned one of the floor cabinets into a mini office for holding stationery supplies and bills."

This table is made from reclaimed straw.



**EAT IN**  
Kirei Board Table  
**\$15 per square foot**  
619-236-9924