



COLORFUL CHOICES

COLORBLIND HOMEOWNER LEAVES KITCHEN IN DESIGNER'S HANDS

By Jackie Sheckler Finch, H&L

When his cook stove quit working, Dr. Paul William "Bill" Holtzman decided it was time to get a new kitchen. After all, his home was 50 years old and the stove that broke was no longer on the market.

"The kitchen was so outdated, I thought I might as well make a change," the 84-year-old says. "The stove was just worn out, so I thought other things probably were, too."

Once he decided on the kitchen renovation, Bill had to pick someone to do the big project. He also was faced with a myriad of decisions—from what kitchen cabinets and countertop to buy to what kind

of floor and ceiling to install. Then there was the choice of stainless steel or Corian or porcelain for the sink. And the color of paint for the walls. And whether the cabinet pulls and handles should be brass or copper or steel. The decisions seemed endless.

The longtime Bloomington doctor also knew that making those choices probably would be more difficult for him than for most homeowners. Dr. Bill is colorblind.

Since he was born color blind, how did he know that he wasn't seeing colors the same way others did? "Oh, it was pretty obvious," he answers with a laugh. "I came up with some strange combinations of clothes when I

was little. My parents recognized that I must be colorblind."

Very few colorblind people can only see in black and white. Many might not be able to tell the difference between red and green, but they can see different shades of colors. In Bill's case, the main colors he can see are bits of blue and yellow.

In choosing the person to oversee his kitchen project, Bill remembered a kitchen that seemed particularly nice in a friend's home. Asking around, he found that the man who designed that kitchen came with high recommendations.

"That's why I picked Larry Routen. I knew



PHOTOS: Kendall Reeves, Spectrum Studio

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that he did good work," Bill says. "I liked what I saw, so that's who I got."

At his Lifestyle Kitchens & Baths office, Larry said he was happy to be contacted by the doctor. But the project was "very unusual" to say the least. Most homeowners make important décor decisions themselves. A designer may make recommendations, but the final decisions rest with the homeowner. In this case, Larry would be in charge of it all.

"It was a challenge," Larry admits. "I listened to him as he talked about what he wanted and that's what I designed, including all the colors and everything else."

THE WAY IT WAS

When the house was built about half a century ago, it was much smaller than it is today. "It's the only place our family has ever lived," Bill says. "But I think we darn near doubled the size over a period of time."

Bill and his wife, Marcella, had four daughters. Marcella died in December of 2005. "We had been married 46 years when she died."

When they moved into their new home, the Holtzmans were on the east edge of Bloomington. Now the city has grown out to meet them. "We were the last house here.

There was nothing but farm fields behind us," Bill says. "There was no College Mall, no Hyde Park. Just country over here. We were almost outside town."

The couple had met as students at Indiana University. Born in Gosport, Bill grew up working in the family store, Holtzman's Grocery, and he knew for sure that wasn't what he wanted to do. His grandfather, Rice Holtzman, had been a country doctor in Stinesville, but Bill isn't sure that played any part in his deciding to enter the medical field.

"My grandfather died in 1913; that's years before I was even born," he says, opening a



PHOTOS: Kendall Reeves, Spectrum Studio

well-worn black leather instrument kit that used to belong to his grandfather. "I went to college for almost a decade. Back then, it didn't cost as much. For \$6 a week, I got a room in town, then eventually moved into a dorm."

A bacteriologist, Marcella worked in the lab at Riley Hospital in Indianapolis. Bill had his own office as an internist in Bloomington. He retired in 2000 after 53 years of taking care of generations of patients.

Now Bill likes to read—a copy of James Patterson's new novel, "Cross Country," waits on his desk—play with his schnauzer Annie, relax by the fireplace in his family room and take trips to Florida, California and Asia to escape the Hoosier snow and ice.

Over the years, the Holtzmans had added onto their home several times. But the kitchen was one project they had put off tackling. The project got under way during the winter of 2007-2008. "The kitchen was very dark and small and kind of old fashioned," Larry recalls. "It had some years on it."

What Bill wanted was a kitchen that was lighter and brighter with a layout that was more functional. In talking with his kitchen designer, Bill had only three things he

wanted done in the new kitchen.

"I wanted to keep the oak floor in the dining room. I wanted to have a place for my African violets in the kitchen window. And I wanted places to display my Meissen collection."

With those three instructions, Bill turned the job over to Larry and was very pleased with the results. "You don't have to worry," Bill says. "You just tell him what you want and he makes it happen. He's an artist."

Originally, the home had a very small kitchen and a very small dining room. To make the space more airy and light, Larry got rid of some of the obstructions. A wall that separated the kitchen and the dining room had already been removed some years earlier and a set of cabinets had been installed as a divider.

"It was a U-shaped kitchen that opened into the dining room," Larry says. "But there were cabinets with wall cabinets up above so you could see into the dining room, if you bent your head down and looked between the cabinets. But you couldn't walk directly into the dining room from the kitchen because you had to walk around the cabinets."

Those blocking cabinets were among the first things to go. The result is two rooms that easily flow into each other and look much larger than they actually are. An attractive island was installed in the kitchen for additional workroom and storage space.

The lovely oak floor in the dining room was kept and a white tile floor was installed in the kitchen. White cabinets were chosen to set off the blue and white Meissen porcelains. A blue Cambria kitchen counter and backsplash were added. "I wanted to use blue because it is a color that Bill can see," Larry explains. "The counter has a little black and a little white in it but it's mostly delft blue to tie in with his china. The blue counters are what brings it all together."

Built-in cabinets and shelves were added at the far end of the dining room. Open

cabinets have oak inserts on the back to tie in with the oak floor. The open upper shelves offer display space for the pottery and pewter collectibles. The lower cabinets provide handy storage.

"What I like about the cabinets is that they are self-closing," Bill says, demonstrating how it takes only a gentle nudge and a drawer softly shuts itself. "There is plenty of room to store things around the stove and the sink."

A stainless steel sink has a shelf over it for African violets. "They get good light in the window and I think they help the kitchen look brighter in the winter," Bill says.

PROJECT RESULTS IN PLEASANT ROOMS

Except for the dishwasher, the kitchen got all new appliances. A built-in refrigerator has white wood panels on the front, as does the dishwasher, to complement the cabinets. A separate cook top and oven were installed "to keep everything at an ideal working height," Larry says.

"The new stove is gas," Bill adds. "The old one was electric and I like the gas one better."

Deciding what to do with the ceiling was a tough task. "The ceiling was uneven because of where it used to be two rooms," Larry says. "When they took that wall out, the ceilings didn't exactly line up. We leveled it out and used very heavy wallpaper that looks like an old tin ceiling. Then we painted it white."

For the final touch, the wall paint color that Larry picked was a soft grey. Painting was done by Dave Harlan of Bedford. "It ties in with the pewter and the delft blue dishes very well," Larry says.

The result was even better than he anticipated, Bill concludes. "It looks a whole lot better than the old one did. Now you can enjoy being in the kitchen."



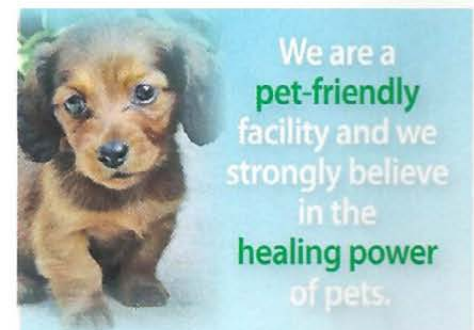
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