

- ♦ Musings for the Month
- ♦ Designer's Kitchen Remodel
- ♦ Independence Day Trivia

Your ONE-STOP Home Interiors Solution

Mommy must want me to be a model. Here is my 6 month "official photo", whatever that is.



Molli's Memo

Nana and Papa came to help me and Daddy celebrate Daddy's first Father's Day.

Daddy and Papa got to play golf, which I know made Daddy happy. He doesn't get to play golf much since I came along.

I really enjoyed all the attention from Nana and Papa. I hope Papa wasn't upset when I spit up on him.

**Molli Bryn,
Nana's first granddaughter**

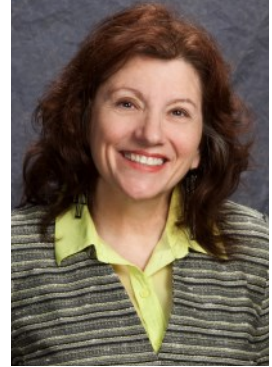
Musings for the Month

VA "Scandal"

I am so outraged at what has recently been revealed about the lack of service to our military veterans through the VA System.

I grew up in the military, as my father was career enlisted in the Air Force. He uses the VA system today for much of his health care. We have many clients that are veterans. I honor their service and sacrifice.

Our military veterans deserve much better for putting their lives on the line to protect our freedoms. Don't you think?



Great Time in Iowa

My husband and I traveled to Iowa to help our son celebrate his first Father's Day.

Other than the typical trials and tribulations of air travel, we had a great time. Got to see many family at the old-fashioned cook-out at my sister-in-law's house. Had to eat inside as it was quite winding that evening.

My husband commented that if the weather were like this year-round in Iowa, there would be 10 million people living in Des Moines. Temps in the 70's and low humidity (for Iowa in summer anyway).

Dad Turns 85?

My father turns 85 this year, we think. There is some confusion about what year he was born. Back then, in rural Iowa, when most children were born at home, the record keeping wasn't what it is today.

Anyway, I'm headed back to Iowa in July, with my 3 sisters, to celebrate his 85th birthday. We are going video him telling us of his life's adventures, especially in the military.

Happy 4th of July,

Betty Jones

Happy July 4th ... Independence Day

Please join our entire team in remembering the TRUE meaning of July 4th. There are so many men and women, from the early days of our country's struggle for independence through the two World Wars, the Korean War, Vietnam, two wars in Iraq, plus Afganistan that have risked their lives for our freedom. Please remember all of them on this July 4th Holiday.

GOD BLESS AMERICA !

DESIGNER'S KITCHEN

Ever wonder what the inside of a Interior Designer's home looks like?

This month, we take you inside the home of Janice Williams, our outstanding Senior Interior Designer.

Total Kitchen Renovation

Janice, and her husband John, recently completed a total kitchen renovation. After living in their current home for the past 10 years, they both agreed that the kitchen layout and configuration really didn't fit their lifestyle.

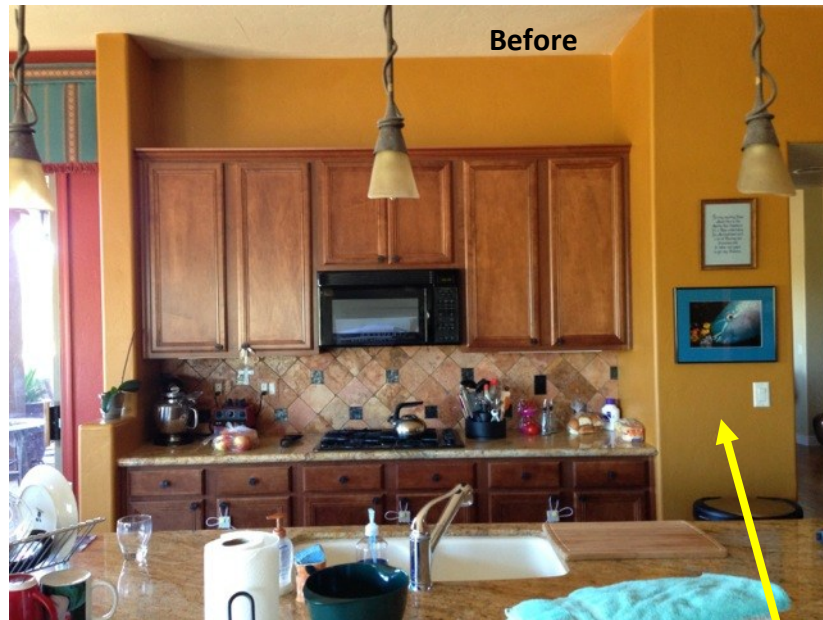
So, they decided to strip their kitchen to the bones, and install a totally new kitchen that *worked* for them.

Added Perspective

Janice has helped many homeowners accomplish a similar kitchen renovation. But, doing it to her own home, with her husband watching every step, has given Janice an added perspective of the process.

"I knew such a renovation was very personal to our clients. Doing it ourselves gave me an added perspective that will help me do an even better job for my clients."

Janice Williams, Senior Interior Designer



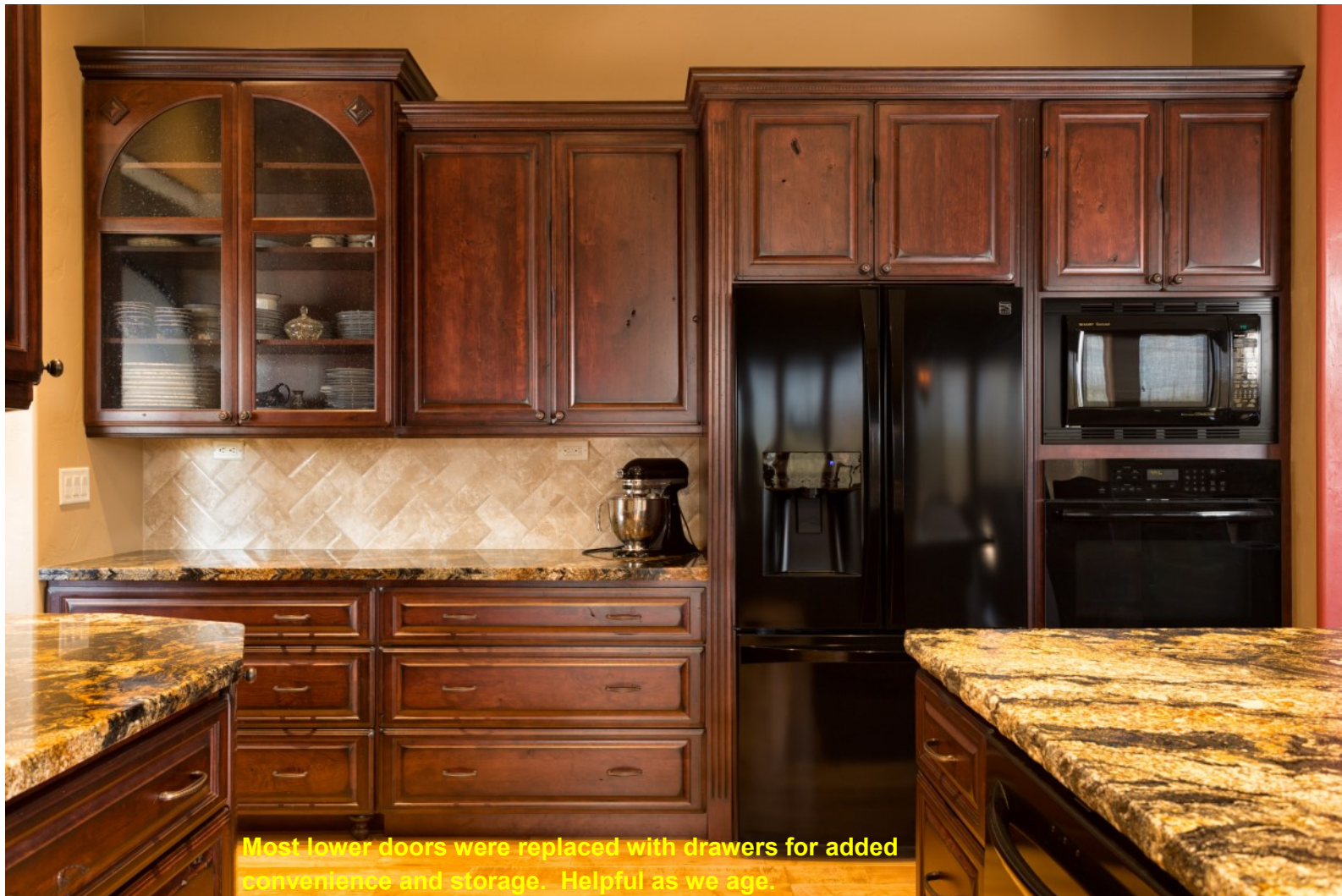
Removed Wall / Pantry
to create a more open feel and eliminate a "pinch point" for better traffic flow.



Lighting was relocated for optimum illumination in primary work areas. Two larger, more prominent, pendants replaced three smaller pendants, for proper scale in relation to the island.

Notice the beautifully complimenting contrasts between the floor, cabinets counters and paint colors. *This is what our designers do for our clients.*

RENOVATION...A Look Inside



Inefficient Kitchen

The inefficiency of their kitchen was the main motivation for this kitchen remodel.

- No Pull-outs
- Half-Shelves in Lower Cabinets
- Had to get on floor for access
- Too many walls equaled choppy layout

These and other subtle changes resulted in 1/3 more storage space in the same square footage.

Designer Inspired Changes

Other designer inspired changes to make this kitchen remodel special include:

- Move Microwave to make cooktop hood the focal point of the kitchen
- Moved refrigerator to create more and larger counter areas
- Island granite is a *leathered* finish (less polished & more texture) to make it stand out from the other counters
- Widened island for deeper storage on stool side - for storage of items seldom needed



Area opened up by removing the wall / pantry.

Before





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**I'm ready to Celebrate my
first 4th of July**

4 Things You Didn't Know About the Fourth of July

1. America didn't declare its independence on the Fourth of July

Perhaps the greatest misconception of this American holiday lies in the name and its equally iconic date. The true "Independence Day" depends on your definition of when such an official declaration was indeed truly official. It's widely believed that America's first Continental Congress declared their independence from the British monarchy on July 4th, 1776. However, the official vote actually took place two days before and the "Declaration" was published in the newspapers on July 4th

2. Thomas Jefferson and John Adams both died on the Fourth of July

The publication of the Declaration of Independence may have accidentally made the Fourth of July the official day of independence for America, but the deaths of two of its founders cemented its creation of the date's designation. US Presidents Thomas Jefferson and John Adams passed away on July 4th. The even more amazing coincidence is that both died on the same day in the same year of 1826 by a difference of five hours with Jefferson passing first at age 82 and Adams at age 90.

3. The song 'God Bless America' stayed in Irving Berlin's rejection pile for 20 years

Famed American composer Irving Berlin gave his adopted nation one of its greatest and most iconic songs but it didn't see the light of day because its author didn't deem it worthy of being sung. Berlin was drafted into the military in the early 1900s and helped to draft a musical comedy for his fellow troops in which he composed the song for its final number — a tune inspired by a phrase his Russian mother would often utter after escaping to America from underneath the iron fist of the bloody Russian empire.

However, the composer didn't think it would fit in the show and kept it in his file for 20 years until singer Kate Smith wanted a patriotic song to sing on the radio as war broke out across Europe. The song became one of the most requested patriotic ditties almost overnight and a staple in American songbooks.

4. The modern flag was designed by a high school student as part of a class project

The American flag has gone through many alterations as the regions grew and even reached beyond its borders. The modern "50 star flag," however, has an interesting story behind its creation.

High school student Robert G. Heft of Lancaster, Ohio was assigned to create a new "national banner" for America that would recognize the statehood of Alaska and Hawaii. Heft simply added two extra stars to the flag to give it an even 50 and stitched his own design. His teacher only gave him a "B-minus" for his effort, so he sent his project to President Dwight D. Eisenhower for consideration and a change of grade.



Eisenhower chose his design personally and the new flag was officially adopted in 1960. His teacher then gave him an "A" instead.