

# nesting

# Everyday solutions

**Pampered pooch naps in a built-in kennel that blends with the kitchen cabinets.**

## star tribune /aia everyday solutions

Everyday Solutions appears once a month in the Homes section showcasing projects, by AIA Minnesota member architects, that solve a homeowner's everyday design challenge. The program is a partnership between the Star Tribune and the Minnesota chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

By LYNN UNDERWOOD • lunderwood@startribune.com

**The challenge:** At first, Jennifer O'Brien and Paul Bastyr wanted only a bigger garage for Paul's race cars. "But that led to a new kitchen and another bedroom and bathroom, and suddenly we were doing the whole house," said O'Brien, referring to their 1950s Edina rambler.

The existing kitchen was dark, with little counter space. The small kitchen also housed a big kennel for their dog, Otto. "Having it there gives Otto a place where he can watch us, but he's not underfoot," said O'Brien. But the massive metal kennel took up most of the eating area and would look clunky in the sleek new remodeled kitchen.



**BEFORE:** The small kitchen was tight, with little counter space.

**The team:** Dan Nepp, principal, and Janet Lederle, project manager, TEA2 Architects, Minneapolis ([www.tea2architects.com](http://www.tea2architects.com)) and contractor Jack Carter, Uber Built, Minnetonka.

**The solution:** The TEA2 team designed a sapele wood kennel, in place of a lower cabinet, and tucked it under a counter, matching the wood and stain of the kennel to the cabinets. The new tile floors are an easy-clean surface for inside the kennel. The combination of white enameled upper cabinets and sapele lower cabinets and the built-in kennel "gives the kitchen clean lines and helps the space feel bigger," said Lederle.

**Chew-proof:** After O'Brien pointed out that dogs chew wood, the TEA2 team made some modifications. "We had the cabinet maker line the kennel with a metal mesh," said Lederle.

**Safe haven:** The vertical slats allow Otto to see what's going on, yet give him his own refuge, said Lederle.



Dan Nepp



Janet Lederle

**In and out:** The door swings open at one end and slides back into the kennel, giving Otto the freedom to go in and out. "He's figured out how to get the door open himself," said O'Brien.

**Pocket protector:** A glass pocket door confines Otto to the kitchen when the couple are gone, but lets in light and views.

**Pet perk:** The counter above the kennel is deeper than standard, creating a handy food-prep station. The counter also holds a microwave oven and cabinet that stores a food processor to mix ingredients for Otto's special diet. The deeper counter is flush with the refrigerator for a seamless, cohesive look.

**Best part:** The kitchen cabinet kennel is just a small piece of a major rambler redesign, but it plays a big part in the couple's everyday lifestyle.

"We love having Otto always there with us," said O'Brien. "And if anything drops on the floor — he'll get it."

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Photos by JANET LEDERLE

**AFTER:** Otto can be close to owner Jennifer O'Brien when she's preparing meals in the remodeled kitchen. The sapele wood kennel has a sliding door and matches the kitchen cabinets. The kennel created a deeper counter, which can be used as a food prep area.



## SHARE YOUR EVERYDAY SOLUTION

Everyday Solutions features projects by AIA Minnesota member architects that solve a homeowner's everyday design challenge. To submit a project for consideration, please send uncompressed JPEG images of the element or space, before and after photos if available, and a brief description of the story behind the project to Stephanie Pelzer: [pelzer@aia-mn.org](mailto:pelzer@aia-mn.org).

## close to home Adding fun and utility to your living space



ANDERSEN WINDOWS

Matching windows and doors to home styles should be easier with Andersen Windows' new collection.

### Architectural style savvy

Homeowners planning a remodeling often want to match their window style to their home's architectural style, but aren't always sure what style that might be.

To clarify choices and to make it easier for architects, builders and homeowners to be on the same page, Andersen Windows has developed a collection of windows and doors designed for the following popular architectural styles: Tudor, Spanish Colonial, American Farmhouse, Craftsman Bungalow, Ranch, French Eclectic, Queen Anne, Georgian/Federal, Prairie and Modern.

There's also a corresponding Home Style Library, detailing design elements from a specific historic period of architecture or style. It also helps in the selection of window style, grilles, color interior finishes

and hardware that fit the desired look. Visit [www.andersenwindows.com/style-library](http://www.andersenwindows.com/style-library).

### Artful weekend

The art fair season kicks off Friday with the Edina Art Fair, one of the nation's largest. This year's fair, the 46th annual, will feature the work of 320 artists and crafters from throughout the United States and Canada.

Booths filled with ceramics, jewelry, glass, photography, wood carvings, mixed media, fine art and sculpture will be set up curbside near the intersection of 50th Street and France Avenue S.

In addition to browsing the art booths, fairgoers can sample a variety of entertainment options, including a puppet show, the Teddy Bear Band and Chicks on Sticks. Other activities include a Kids Art Zone, a com-

munity art project and pottery-wheel demonstrations.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Fri. and Sat. and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. next Sun. For information, go to [www.edinaartfair.com](http://www.edinaartfair.com).

### South-of-the-border decor

If you like Mexican arts and crafts, there's a new venue just for you. Zinnia Folk Arts was founded in 2008 as an occasional sale destination and now has a permanent home near 50th Street and Bryant Avenue S. in Minneapolis. The store, which opened last weekend, features handmade arts and crafts, including ceramics, carvings, textiles and jewelry, many of museum quality, from throughout Mexico. Zinnia Folk Arts is at 826 W. 50th St., Mpls.; [www.zinniafolkarts.com](http://www.zinniafolkarts.com).

KIM PALMER