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He also opened up the space, getting rid of a wall between the kitchen and dining room. Of note in the final design are the upper cabinets, which do double duty, offering long-term storage space as well as providing extra lighting. The floor, which looks like natural stone, is actually porcelain.

KITCHEN

Harrison, Denys came up with design and colour options that would give the room a more contemporary feel. The couple say they chose Denys to renovate their kitchen because he, too, lives in an older house in their neighbourhood of Old Ottawa South. "Paul has a very good eye for design," explains Virginia. "He knows what will and will not work because he knows the area and the vintage of the house." Denys quickly ripped out the old white melamine cabinetry, replacing it with cherry cabinets, their colour enhanced with a nutmeg stain.

Design: Paul Denys, Denys Builds Designs
Faucets: Grohe, from Boone Plumbing
Sink: Kindred Undermount Sink, from Boone Plumbing
Cupboards: From Kitchen Craft Cabinetry
Fridge, microwave, and stove: KitchenAid Architect Series, from Universal Appliances
Counter: Cambrian black granite, from Prestige Granite

Chairs: From Pier 1 Imports
Lighting: From Marchand Electrical
Handles: From Lee Valley Tools
Floor: Maya Oro tile, from Zanetti Tile Sales