

**MEAGHERS -
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Their renovation included all new electrical wiring, all new ductwork, new insulation, new windows, and new appliances (although the furnace and water heater were good and were kept).

The Meaghers knew the house had nine-foot ceilings on the main floor, which they love for the openness and which were another draw to the property. In the kitchen, they had the new cabinets built to the ceiling, as well as adding a pantry for Amy. "We have so much cupboard space," said Max. "Most of the top row is empty."

Despite the renovation, "we wanted the house to have some of the character of an older style," explained Amy, who works as an accountant in Willmar. For instance, for the window trim, they picked an older, wider style. And they wanted wide, ornate trim and old-style cupboards.

They suspected that the main level might have a real hardwood floor underneath the old carpeting and were delighted to find an 1 1/2-inch by 3/4-inch oak floor, which they were able to patch in a couple spots where walls used to stand using oak flooring from the front porch. "Who has this in their whole house? Nobody, because of the expense," said Max of the oak floor. "We couldn't afford it either if it wasn't here already."

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Photo by Michael Jacobson

Figuring out where their new kitchen should be was one of the biggest challenges for the Meaghers. When this L-shaped island fit perfectly, the decision was easy.

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