



creating

A SENSE OF

space

A couple from Southeast Iowa saw potential in a dated Horseshoe Bend condo. Their interior designer brought it to life!

by Porcshe Moran | photography by Matt Kocourek

Jan and Ron Crow purchased their condo at the Four Seasons Racquet & Country Club in 2004. After nearly a decade in their vacation home, the couple wanted a change. However, they weren't interested in moving to a new development.

"The condo was built in the late 80s," says Jan. "The bathrooms and the kitchen were dated. But, we love the location, and with all of the amenities we never have to leave the property."

The Crows decided to hire Kimberly G. Loehr, interior designer and owner of Interior Motifs in Osage Beach, to help modernize their 1,200 square-foot unit.

Loehr says she saw the potential to update the two-bedroom, two bathroom condo within a reasonable budget. She and her team collaborated with Laurie Kitchen & Bath Center in Gravois Mills and Foley's Carpet in Jefferson City to remodel the Crow's condo.

"The use of space needed to be revamped," Loehr says. "My goal was to make it more functional. I look at a client's situation now and into the future to come up with a framework of how to move forward."

One of the biggest jobs was in the kitchen. Loehr says it was closed off and didn't offer any flow ▶ *please turn page* ▶



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or passage into the living room. She knocked down a wall to increase the size of the kitchen and make room for a breakfast bar. She also added more storage and granite countertops.

“With condos you are usually structurally embedded by the walls,” says Loehr. “We were lucky to have a wall in the kitchen that was not load bearing.”

The master bathroom was another space that needed to be addressed. The five-feet by five-feet area included a soaking tub with shower, vanity and commode. Loehr removed the tub, increased the size of the shower and added a linen cabinet to make the bathroom less crowded and more usable.

“There were some dramatic changes made and now our condo is so much more flexible,” says Jan. “It is beautiful, and we can enjoy it.”

It was not possible to increase the square footage of the condo, so Loehr relied on optical tricks to create the illusion of more space. She replaced

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the carpet and tile with laminate flooring to unify all of the common areas. She took out drop lights and replaced them with can lights. Loehr also painted the walls and cabinets in light colors to make the rooms feel open and airy. By pulling out the panel lights in the ceiling, Loehr was able to increase the ceiling height from seven-feet to eight-feet. ▶ please turn page ▶

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“There are many ways to create visual space if you don’t have structural space,” says Loehr. “I use Feng Shui practices in my design concepts to help with organization and to make things multifunctional.”

Other projects in the condo included repairing water damaged drywall, fixing plumbing and wiring issues and scraping popcorn ceilings. Once



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construction was finished, Loehr was able to assist the Crows with choosing new décor. They opted to keep most of their furniture and focus on accessories to personalize and refresh their condo.

“Every family is unique and their second home should reflect that,” says Loehr. “It should be a fun and relaxing escape. I don’t want to have cookie-cutter interiors.”

► please turn page ►

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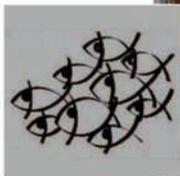


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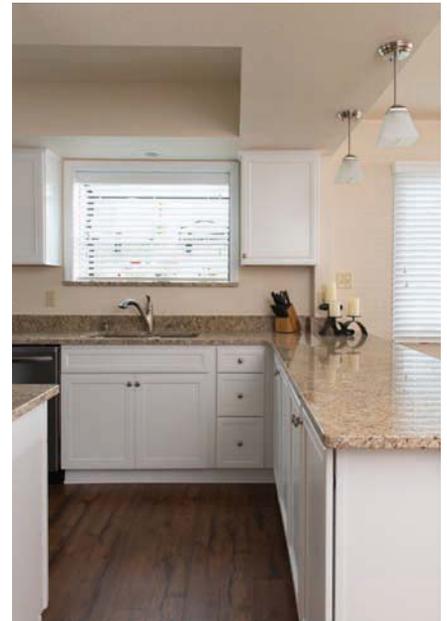
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The Crow's primary residence is in southeast Iowa, about a four hour drive away from the Lake. Jan says they use their second home an average of seven to 10 days each month. She says that employing Loehr to work on their condo allowed work to proceed even when they weren't in town.

"I didn't have to worry about anything because I knew that Kim would take care of it whether we were at the Lake or not," says Jan. "She listened to what we wanted and offered her expertise. This was our first time working with an interior designer, and it was a really nice experience." ■



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