

Room Rx

Kitchen Refresh Without a Reno

WHEN DECADE-OLD FINISHES START TO LOOK PASSÉ,
INTERIOR DESIGNER BRIA HAMMEL HELPS GIVE THE ROOM A FACE-LIFT.

By Stephanie Sisco

Q:

My cabinets are cream with yellow undertones, and my island is espresso brown. Great 10 years ago—not so great now. I’m hoping to get the clean, crisp look I love without changing everything. How can I do that?
—Kristin, New City, New York



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1

SWAP THE COUNTERTOP

To make the largest impact without even touching the cabinets, consider installing a counter with gray and beige veining. These colors will pair well with the warm cabinetry.

TO BUY: Brittanicca Warm Quartz, from \$110 per sq. ft.; cambriausa.com for info.

2

SWITCH THE SEATING

Barstools are often the only furniture in a kitchen—and they can help set the tone for the whole room. Try a light woven option to give a brighter feel to the dark island.

TO BUY: Parisian Woven Counter Stool, \$299; potterybarn.com.

3

PAINT THE WALLS

Rather than refinishing the cabinets, simply paint the surrounding walls. Go with a pale, subtle gray to get just enough contrast from white molding and trim.

TO BUY: Classic Gray, from \$43 per gallon; benjaminmoore.com for info.

4

LIGHTEN THINGS UP

Ceramic light fixtures over the island will bring more light into the space. The bronze hardware will work nicely with the dark wood of the island.

TO BUY: Bloom Pendant, \$280; brookeandlou.com.

Submit your own design dilemmas to room.rx@realsimple.com.

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