

## Featured Products



# The Divine is in the Details

## A Case Study

The Thalers are empty nesters that have been living in their custom built home for twelve years. As they specified in the original design of their kitchen, recessed lighting provides general illumination and fluorescent under cabinet lighting provides task lighting on the countertops. Recently, however, they find that they use their kitchen not only for cooking, but for entertaining, and, when it is just the two of them, eating. To take full advantage of the different ways they now use the space, they began looking for an updated lighting design that would be both functional and versatile.

Mrs. Thaler elaborated, "While our current lighting layout is extremely functional, we want to add some pizzazz and dimension to the space.

We love to entertain family and friends and the kitchen often becomes the center of the action. We have also found that when it is just the two of us, our island becomes our eating space."

To update the Thaler's kitchen lighting, interior designer Paige Reinhard along with representatives from Lithonia Lighting were asked to assist in a lighting retrofit. Paige commented, "The Thalers have some interesting aspects of their kitchen that we can draw attention to and enhance the look of the space. Their extended kitchen island houses the cooktop and easily allows enough room for an eating space. They also have a lovely wine selection stored in a built-in wine rack above the refrigerator."

The before and after photos of the Thalers' kitchen illustrate the dramatic difference lighting can make in your living spaces. Notice how even the illumination is in the after photo. The Lithonia Lighting team transformed the dark recesses into efficient work areas and architectural focal points. When Mrs. Thaler first saw her kitchen after the lighting redesign, she immediately commented on how much larger the space looked and how much higher the ceiling appeared.



The corner window is an interesting architectural feature of the Thalers' kitchen, but in the evening, it was lost in the shadows. By adding uplight behind the home accessories, the window is as striking in the evening as it is in the daytime.

→ The existing 6" recessed lighting was removed and smaller aperture recessed fixtures took its place. By using a white trim and adding a dimmer, this system provides general illumination when needed with the ability to tone it down to create a more intimate atmosphere. The smaller aperture size reduces attention drawn to the down lighting. In addition, the lamp wattage in these fixtures was reduced from 65 to 35.

→ To illuminate the eating side of the kitchen island, two pendant fixtures were added. Use of the pendants eliminated the need to have all the recessed lighting on during meal time and created an added focal point to the space. Lithonia Lighting's BZA Ferros Family was chosen for its unique style and energy efficiency.

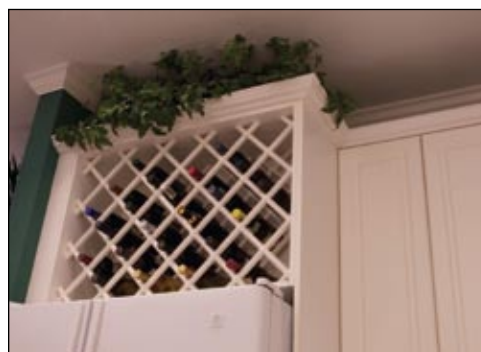
→ The brushed nickel Elliptis linear fixture gave the kitchen a modern, updated feel while providing even, general lighting.

→ The existing T12 under cabinet lights were replaced with Lithonia Lighting's T5 UC5D low profile under cabinet fixtures. The smaller, lower profile fixtures reduce the opportunity to see the fixtures themselves, while the newer electronic ballast technology virtually eliminates any ballast noise. In addition, placed under cabinets, they brighten work spaces for greater safety when cutting food.

→ Lithonia's T5 UC5D fixtures were also added above the cabinets to provide indirect uplighting. These were extremely easy to install, and they make the space feel much larger while highlighting knickknacks or other treasured items placed above cabinets.

→ LEDs were used on the bottom of the built-in wine rack as an accent to showcase the Thaler's wine collection. Their low profile makes them almost impossible to see but they create an additional point of interest in the space. LEDs combine extremely low power consumption along with a 40,000 hour life.

After the installation, Mrs. Thaler exclaimed, "We cannot believe how much of a difference our lighting retrofit has made; it feels like a new kitchen! We have used the different fixtures in different combinations to change or create a new look or mood. The LED lighting in the wine rack is my husband's favorite. It allows us to see our selection and creates an interesting conversation piece. When entertaining, our appetizers look great under the pendant lights on the counter. The recessed and under cabinet lighting provides plenty of light to get the clean up work done after our guests leave." ■



Lighting the interior of the wine rack, makes the wine labels easier to read and helps accent this custom cabinetry feature. Details like this have a big impact on how someone experiences a space.