

Three years ago, when she bought the place, Melissa Jun knew she'd have to do something about the galley kitchen of her one-bedroom apartment in the Brooklyn Heights neighborhood of New York. "I like to cook, and it was just such a pain," she says. A look at some old pictures explains why: A small child could reach from end to end without moving a step, the cabinets were a dreary off-white, the appliances didn't fit properly, and there was practically no counter space. Cheap peach-colored tiles were tarred down onto the floor. "It was pretty shocking."

Jun, a graphic designer, was stuck preparing om rice—a Korean egg dish that's one of her favorite things to cook—in that cramped, unpleasant space until a friend introduced her to Stefanie Brechbuehler and Robert Andrew Highsmith, partners in the fledgling Brooklyn design firm Workstead. It was Brechbuehler and Highsmith's first job together, and with a construction budget of just \$17,000, it was not easy. "This project required a lot of love. There was a lot of research involved," says the Swiss-born Brechbuehler. "The way to keep a project's cost down is to have really good communication." ▶

Story by Mark Lamster
Photos by Jeremy Liebman

Project: Sliding Kitchen
Designer: Workstead
Location: Brooklyn, NY



A Clean Slate

A few big ideas—and some careful workmanship—transform the very small kitchen of a one-bedroom Brooklyn apartment into an expansive space suited to a young professional with a taste for design.