



**HOME  
SERVICES**  
by Housecrafters

As Seen in  
**House Beautiful 2004**

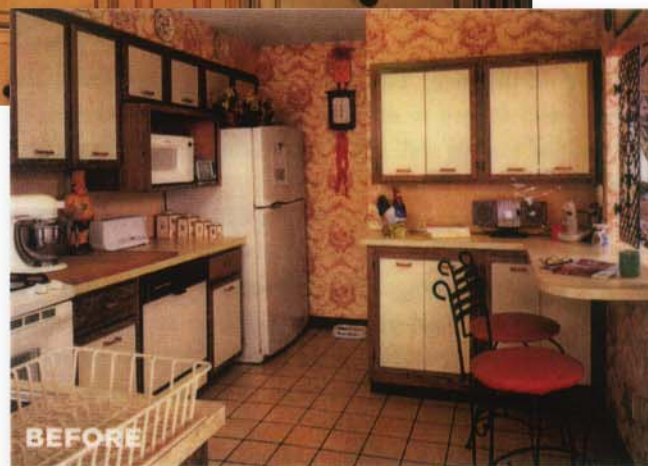
Writer: Jane Margolies Photographer: Tom Crane  
Producer: Doretta Spurduto



## Kitchen Puzzle

House Beautiful turns to the Home Depot and designer Barbara Bell for help in renovating a reader's kitchen fraught with problems

JOAN WRIGHT SAILED THROUGH decorating the living room, dining room, and bedrooms of her Glenside, Pennsylvania, house. But when it came to the 10-by-13-foot, L-shaped kitchen, the stay-at-home mom was stumped. There were problems with the layout (the sink and dishwasher were on different walls, for example, which meant Wright had to drip rinsed plates across the floor), and she didn't like the dinky cabinets and dreary Formica counters, either. An attempt to "pretty up" the room with toile wallpaper and iron shutters failed, she felt. "Everyone says the kitchen is fine," she wrote to House Beautiful in a plea for help. But fine isn't good enough, her letter said. "I just don't know how to attack a layout like this."



Eliminating the soffits over the old upper cabinets (above) meant the new ones from Thomasville could be taller—and still leave room for handsome crown moldings (top). Under the L-shaped granite counter, a new cabinet with a pull-out slide hides the garbage can.