



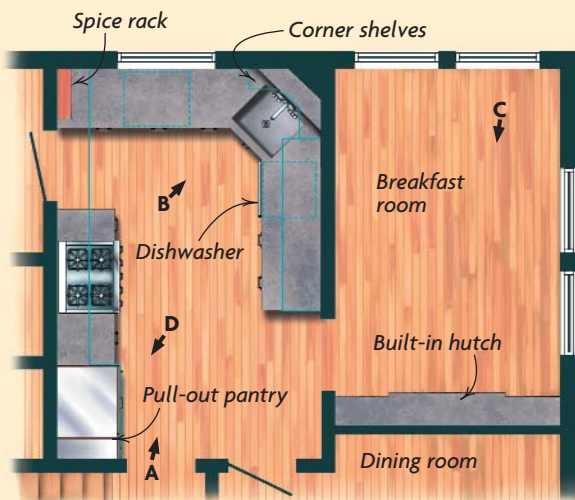
A Craftsman Kitchen Comes Into Its Own

Materials and details usually reserved for more public spaces welcome this kitchen into the heart of the house

BY PETE AND CONNIE DI GIROLAMO

A CORNER SINK ALLOWS MORE COUNTER SPACE

Eliminating a doorway and moving the sink from under the window to the corner expanded the usable counter space while making the appliance layout more efficient.



ON-LINE CONNECTION

Tour this kitchen on our Web site at finehomebuilding.com.

0 1 2 4 ft.

Photos taken at lettered positions.

NOTABLE FIXTURES

Stove and dishwasher

Viking VG1C305 (stove) and VUD041 (dishwasher)
(888) 845-4641
vikingrange.com

Refrigerator

Sub-Zero, 700 series
(800) 222-7820
subzero.com

Door and drawer hardware

Craftsmen Hardware Co. Ltd.
(660) 376-2481
craftsmenhardware.com

In most Craftsman-style homes, the rich woodwork and details typical of the period were usually saved for the public areas, such as the living room and dining room. In the early 1900s, kitchens were thought of as utilitarian, so little attention was given to their embellishment.

The kitchen in our bungalow was no exception. Its plain white walls had none of the gorgeous mahogany woodwork found in our original living room or dining room. Even though space was limited, we wanted to design our kitchen (photo above left) to be as warm, friendly and beautifully detailed as the living room. We also wanted the modern amenities typical of a new kitchen.

Updating an old plan

In spite of its small size, the kitchen had a total of five different doorways in three of its four walls (floor plan, left). To keep the original layout and not compromise existing bearing walls, we decided to leave the

Furniture for the kitchen. From stem to stern, the rich mahogany in this Craftsman kitchen is more akin to furniture than cabinetry and trim. Photo above taken at A on floor plan.



Arts and Crafts corner. Mahogany cabinets and beaded paneling make a suitably detailed backdrop for the slate sink. Photo taken at B on floor plan.



The breakfast room follows suit. The remodeling project was finished by restoring an adjacent breakfast room highlighted by this magnificent mahogany hutch. Photo taken at C on floor plan.

kitchen footprint as designed in 1919. Our focus instead was to maximize usage of space.

First, to make room for the refrigerator, we closed off one of the doorways that accessed a small storage area under the stairway. Next, we moved the sink from its spot under the window to the corner of the kitchen to give us a larger unbroken expanse of counter space.

With a rough layout in hand, we turned over construction of the cabinets to our friend Glen Stewart, who had also remodeled our bathroom (“Re-creating an Arts and Crafts Bathroom,” pp. 90-91).

Arts and Crafts details make the kitchen

The wood cabinets and beaded paneling replicate the original mahogany in the dining area. The woodworking in that room was made from African mahogany, but we found that today’s Honduras mahogany was a better match in color and grain. White oak for the kitchen floor ties in with the adjacent rooms.

With Glen’s expert guidance, we carefully made the panels and face frames in propor-

ATTENTION TO DETAIL



This kitchen is jam-packed with exquisite woodwork, the hallmark of the Craftsman style. Here are a few examples. All the kitchen drawers (photo left) have dovetailed corners, with the same care given to the flatware insert. Inspired by a detail he’s seen while working on the restoration of a Greene brothers’ house in Pasadena, California, Glen Stewart adapted this simple method for making adjustable shelves in the breakfast-room hutch (center photo). Every detail—right down to the curtain rods and brackets (photo right)—benefited from the owners’ design and the craftsman’s attention.

tion to the appliance and cabinet openings. Glen milled door and window trim, built-in open shelving, ceiling beams and the bead-board used for the paneling. After the woodwork was installed, we spent several weekends sanding and finishing.

The hammered copper drawer pulls were custom-made (“Notable Fixtures,” p. 92), borrowing the design of the drawer pulls from an antique Arts and Crafts sideboard that we’d inherited. The door pulls are from Craftsmen Hardware’s standard product line.

Slate quarried in Vermont and then cut and honed in Maine was chosen for the countertops (“Feedback,” top right), the backsplash and the corner sink (photo p. 93). We made precise templates for each of these details and sent them to the slate fabricator.

Custom light fixtures enhance natural light

Lighting the kitchen was a bit of a challenge. A single window above the counter is the only direct source of natural light. A small amount of indirect light also washes in from the adjacent breakfast and laundry rooms. With all the dark mahogany woodwork, we needed light from artificial sources. And we did not want the recessed lighting usually found in modern kitchens.

We designed custom ceiling fixtures, also crafted by Glen. These fixtures, with amber art-glass lenses, use fluorescent lamps and are mounted on newly constructed shallow mahogany box beams on the kitchen ceiling.

Task lighting is provided by undercounter halogen strips, which continue under the corner shelves above the sink. Additional light above the sink comes from a hanging light fixture. Ample task lighting on the other side of the kitchen comes from a fixture in the stainless-steel range hood as well as a halogen strip under the microwave cabinet.

Removing the door to the understair storage area gave us room in our tight plan for a pull-out pantry as well as a built-in refrigerator with two bottom-mounted freezer drawers (photos right). Refrigeration needs are supplemented by two undercounter drawers to the left of the sink for fruit and vegetable storage.

The kitchen remodel wasn’t complete until we’d turned Glen loose on the adjacent breakfast room (photo top left, facing page). The highlight of the room is a beautiful built-in hutch in mahogany with a matching slate countertop. □

Pete di Girolamo is a principal architect at Salerno, Livingston Architects in San Diego, California, and Connie di Girolamo is pursuing her craft in ceramics. Photos by Roe A. Osborn.

FEEDBACK

Living with slate countertops

We chose slate for our countertops because its subtle, soft color and natural appearance fit perfectly with our Arts and Crafts kitchen. The best part is that our slate countertops are virtually maintenance-free. The mottled purple color and matte finish make dirt barely visible.

We clean the counters and sink with just a wet sponge, and then we wipe them dry. Spots from items such as cooking oil are scrubbed away with a sponge or steel wool and a mildly abrasive cleanser. And scrubbing doesn’t leave any noticeable scratches on the matte finish.

The slate never needs to be sealed. The company (Sheldon Slate; 207-997-3615; www.sheldonslate.com) sent lemon oil with the counters and assured us that applying the oil was purely aesthetic to give the countertop a “wet” look. But we prefer the matte finish.

Slate is fairly soft and shouldn’t be used as a cutting board. And a wine bottle can leave little round scratches if opened while it’s sitting on the counter. But a little cleanser, steel wool or light sanding takes care of that, too. Also, be aware that slate may chip if you drop something heavy on an edge. —P. D. and C. D.

HIDING A FRIDGE AND PANTRY, CRAFTSMAN STYLE



A door to a storage area was replaced by Craftsman-style doors and drawers (photo left). The far door is a pull-out pantry (photo bottom right), and the wide door and drawers are a built-in refrigerator/freezer (photo top right). All photos taken at D on floor plan.