

Renovating for the Right Kitchen



A tiny addition and more windows make a better space for period-appropriate cabinetry in a Craftsman-style home

BY DARYL HANSEN

I had not quite finished the remodel of Gail and Peter's house when Gail said to me, "You know, Daryl, we have to do the kitchen next. I have always wanted to have a beautiful, functional kitchen." Gail and Peter's existing kitchen never matched the original Craftsman-style woodwork in the rest of their 1918 house, and that period detailing had been a big factor behind their purchase of the house.

The kitchen had other problems as well: It was small, it had only two small windows, and its access to the backyard was convoluted. The appliances were old and outdated, and they interrupted the circulation. Working in the kitchen required lots of walking back and forth, and the counter space was limited for a house of its size.

First, expand the space

More space would require an addition, and the existing covered entry seemed like a good place to start. By enclosing the L-shape of the entry space, I gained 52 sq. ft.

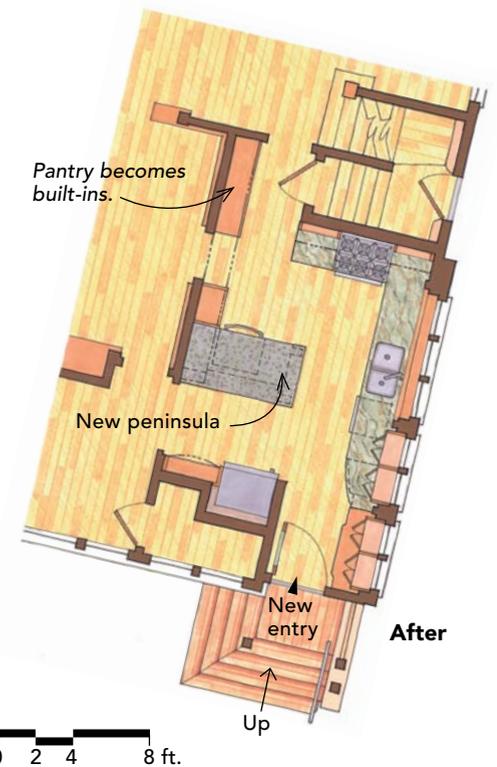
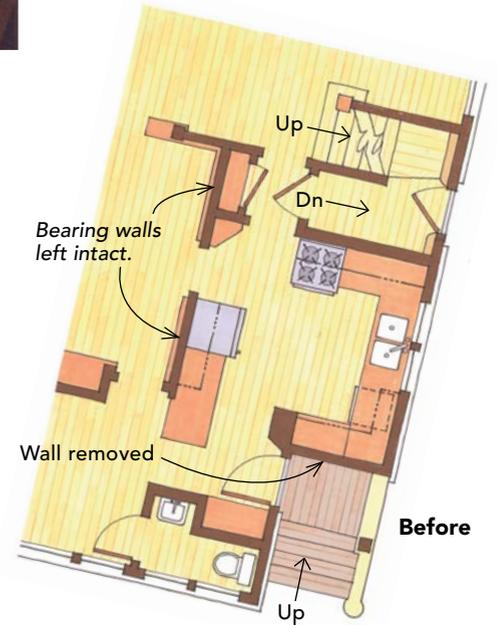


Upgrade to light, space, and style. Pushing into the back-entry porch space and adding a wall of windows created a perfect setting for a new custom kitchen.



TWO STEPS TO A BETTER KITCHEN

Except for superficial details, this kitchen hadn't changed since the house was built 100 years ago. The first design step was to incorporate the back-entry space by knocking down a wall and reconfiguring the door's location. Then, to take full advantage of the new long expanse of exterior wall, the author designed a long bay window that created more space and added much-needed daylight.



Elegant style and plenty of storage. Opening the floor plan made more room for cabinets and a new peninsula. Cabinets extending to the ceiling alternated with continuous display shelves that helped to unify the room.



The bigger kitchen area made room for new counters and cabinets to extend all along the north wall of this space over a 19-ft. expanse. A new entry would extend toward the back.

The second way I added space and additional light to the room was to project a continuous bay of windows along the north wall above countertop height. More light was good, but because light and storage were better, I designed backless cabinets with glass fronts that fit into the bay. Pushing out the upper cabinets opened the countertop space, and the remaining bay-window projections added an extended ledge above countertop height that enhanced the feeling of space in the room. A new glass back door brought views and sunlight in from the east.

Traditional cabinets fit like a glove

The extra space left room for a large central peninsula that served as a new prep and eating area. By removing a doorway at the western end of room, we were able to extend the cabinetry into the hallway, which added to the flow of the room. Tucking the new larger refrigerator into a modified cabinet recess

kept it out of the circulation path around the peninsula.

The existing woodwork in the living and dining rooms provided the impetus to design a kitchen that echoed the enthusiasm of those portions of the house. Working closely with Gail and Peter, I included as much cabinet space as artfully possible. I designed upper cabinets that extended to the ceiling above and along the entire new bay-window area. Open display shelves created continuity between upper cabinets.

We used lightly stained quartersawn white oak for the new cabinetry and millwork. The oak inspired details such as the base-cabinet legs, assembled from mitered pieces so that a quartersawn face was exposed on every side. We specified complementary black-stained walnut for some open shelves.

To introduce more detail, to soften the use of oak for upper cabinets, and to continue with black as an accent color, I had laser-cut metal designs inserted into some of the glass cabinet doors. I drew two geometric metal designs for different cabinet configurations at full scale, then got the homeowners'

approval. The metal shop drew the patterns in CAD and cut them directly from that drawing file. The resulting metal panels were sandwiched between a translucent back insert and a nonreflective glass front insert.

Details that complete the room

As the project progressed, the next set of decisions concerned the selection of countertops and paint color. Gail's favorite color is green, so we chose two green-veined granite slabs. One slab was for all the base cabinetry along the north and west walls. The second slab was for the peninsula. Not much wall area was left after the cabinets, windows, and appliances were fit into the new space, but we chose two subtly green paint tones for the lower and upper wall areas. New oak hardwood floors in the kitchen tied into the adjacent areas and reinforced the circulation pattern through the house. □

Daryl Hansen is an architect in Minneapolis. His website is Architectur-rugs.com. Photos by Charles Bickford, except where noted.

Design: Daryl Hansen, Architectur-rugs.com • **Construction:** Welch Forsman Associates, WelchForsman.com • **Cabinetry:** Chad Johnson

CLEAR DETAILS FOR A BRIGHT KITCHEN



In a conventional kitchen design, windows and cabinets vie for wall space. Here, Daryl Hansen designed a long bay window (above) that projects 10 in. beyond the exterior wall. Backless cabinets (left) installed into two of the windows free counter space and add more natural light. Translucent panels provide privacy on the exterior and hide clutter on the interior. The lightly stained white oak highlights the warmth of the cabinets (below). Accent shelving of black-stained walnut and door panels of laser-cut steel add contrast.



Notable elements

Pendant fixtures: EurekaLighting.com • Cabinet pulls: Häfele.com • Windows: Marvin.com