

57 Budget-Savvy Tips from Design & Build Pros

Well Styled Home

KITCHENS

From the Editors of *Romantic Homes*, *Victorian Homes* and *Cottages & Bungalows*

Beautiful
Period
Kitchens

Before
& After
[Success Stories]

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Before



After



A roaring fire keeps the chill at bay in the rustic stone fireplace. Meanwhile, an increased sense of space was achieved by keeping sightlines open, allowing the homeowners to gaze outside from nearly every angle in this well-designed home.



Modern Farmhouse

Kitchen renovations with farmhouse style harken back to a simpler time.

BY REBECCA LUELLA MILLER
PHOTOGRAPHY BY DARREN
SETLOW

NEW, MODERN APPLIANCES OFTEN ACCOMPANY kitchen renovations.

However, the latest in cooking accoutrement need not preclude a farmhouse style more suited for period homes, as demonstrated by two charming projects completed by the Knickerbocker Group of Boothbay, Maine.

The Bayberry home, renovated by architectural designer James Halferty AIA, Studiohayes for the Knickerbocker Group, is a charming three-story structure located in Southport, Maine. Its features include whitewashed wood walls, exposed beams, "good bones," a classic gambrel form, and a unique beach stone fireplace. However, prior to renovation, its kitchen was isolated in the middle of the home, tucked behind an old porch, with only limited views of the water.



Dark knobs on white cabinets maintain the light/dark theme prevalent throughout this Southport, Maine cottage. Amber pendant lights overhead echo the warm tones of the wooden beams that soar overhead.



The owners wanted to open up the first floor in order to capture a sense of the water. This was accomplished first by using tall windows to let in light. In addition, an increased sense of space was achieved by keeping sightlines open. Consequently the space now has an airy feel. As part of the renovation, the designers integrated the new kitchen into the main living space.

At the same time they maintained a sense of farmhouse authenticity. Murdoch explains, "Throughout the home, the original whitewashed style remains, but with added warm wood accents that highlight the custom millwork and unique detailing." She adds, "Opening up the floor plan required structural ingenuity to support the upper floors. So when new Douglas fir wood beams became exposed, those structural elements were left natural to add some contrast. The same wood tone was carried lightly throughout the home through the use of Douglas fir doors, accent trims, columns, etc."



The use of wide, tall windows to let in light opens the room to the outside. White walls and upholstered furniture give the home an airy look, common in farmhouse style.

[Renovating a Small Kitchen Space]

When space is tight and neither an addition nor expansion are possible, the Knickerbocker Group's Certified Master Kitchen and Bath Designer Elaine Murdoch gives this advice: "Make a wish list, starting with the most important items and continue with things that would be nice to have but are not essential. This doesn't have to be an exact ranking. If you need to trim for budget or space reasons, start eliminating items from the bottom of your list.

"This will help you to keep focused on the things that made you want to do the project in the first place. Don't despair if your space is limited; often the most successful design solutions come from such constraints because every inch must count. Imagine you're creating the interior of a yacht!"

Here are a few additional ideas that can help you make use of the little area you have available.

1. Be creative with window placement. Putting windows above head height opens up wall space for appliances or cabinets.
2. Create the illusion of space by keeping open sightlines.
3. Avoid clutter.
4. Seek to downsize appliances.
5. Replace an island with a peninsula.

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A large bank of windows placed above head height provides light without sacrificing much-needed wall space for cabinetry and appliances. Although this kitchen is small, every inch of space is functional and efficient.

In order to match the existing flooring, the designers chose wide pine with a natural finish for the kitchen. In keeping with the newly created light/dark contrasts, they chose black, honed granite countertops and white cabinets with dark knobs. While the appliances are stainless steel, they selected a fireclay apron-front sink because of its cottage look.

The second kitchen renovation, in the Boothbay Harbor cottage, was extensive. Architectural designer Keith Warren and Certified Master Kitchen and Bath Designer Elaine Murdoch took an antiquated and almost non-existent space with limited counter area and turned it into a quaint, airy kitchen, well suited to the 1908 structure. Originally the space was so cramped, a free-standing water heater blocked part of the stairs and a cook stove sat in a corner by the chimney.

In addition, the designers determined they needed to replicate the look and feel of the original open stud walls; consequently, they chose appropriate wood paneling. "Careful color selection to blend with the old structure minimized the transition from open stud areas to closed bays for running modern wiring and plumbing," Murdoch says.

For the countertops, the designers used dark, honed granite, giving the suggestion of slate or soapstone typically in use at the time the cottage was built. For the sink, they selected a modern faucet with a period look—a bridge faucet with individual hot and cold levers and a high arc spout. In keeping with the vintage theme, they chose pendant lighting and a sconce over the window at the sink.

See Shopping Guide, page 96.

[Get the Look of a Farmhouse Kitchen]

A farmhouse kitchen conveys a regional American style. The effect is both warm and functional, perfect for a summer house or a recreational getaway, but also appropriate for an every-day home, especially for someone wishing to "go green." It also creates a nostalgic atmosphere. According to Elaine Murdoch, Certified Master Kitchen and Bath Designer, "Local natural materials are always best for creating an authentic regional style."

Below are a baker's dozen ideas for incorporating natural materials as you create a farmhouse look in your kitchen:

1. Use granite, marble or natural stone for countertops.
2. Add wood wall paneling.
3. Make use of exposed wooden beams.
4. Opt for hardwood flooring.
5. Use raw or unfinished wood in tables or shelving to create a worn, romantic appeal.
6. Consider Shaker-style cabinetry, with simple, clean lines.
7. Add willow, birch bark or copper trim.
8. Select cabinets in knotty pine, hickory or alder.
9. Choose cabinets with open shelves.
10. Replace glass in cabinet doors with screen or chicken wire.
11. Use local stone to create your backsplash.
12. Add wooden furniture, country motifs and vintage decorations.
13. Color counts: incorporate warm, rich shades of brown, red, green and yellow.