



DESIGNING

Back to the Past

AN OLD-FASHIONED KITCHEN CAN HAVE ALL THE COMFORTS OF THE 21ST CENTURY. BY REGINA COLE

I was never tempted to build a white or a stainless-steel kitchen," says the owner of a 1906 Tudor Revival house in a historic district in Newton. When she and her husband and two children launched an addition and remodeling project that would create a new kitchen, back entry, familyroom, mudroom, and master suite, they wanted to honor the house's original design. The result channels William Morris and the English Arts and Crafts movement, but has all the comforts of the 21st century. "We were not slaves to historicism," says the owner, "but we knew what we wanted, and we found the right people to make it real."

This kind of transformation doesn't happen overnight. After they moved in, the homeowners lived with a tiny kitchen for more than three years while their ideas for the project took shape. "We took the time to develop a vision," says the homeowner, who says she took inspiration from Naumkeag, in Stockbridge, now a museum but built in the late 19th century as a Choate family summer retreat.

The homeowners worked with Eck/MacNeely Architects in Boston. "This was originally a summer home and is in a historic district," says Jeremiah Eck, a partner in the firm.

"To be approved, the addition had to match what was there." There were also zoning restrictions—specifically setback and side-yard ordinances. "The new footprint only adds 10 feet to the back and 4 feet to the side, but totally transforms this part of the house."

Eck's firm also had to meet the owners' requirements. "We wanted an industrial stove, floor-to-ceiling cabinets, an island for additional work space, a pantry tower," the homeowner says. "Space was limited because the scale couldn't be overwhelming; it had to go with the house."

Interior designer Marisa Morra, who is based in Weston, specializes in historic houses. For this project, she designed the color scheme of warm earth tones and soft greens. The kitchen chairs are period antiques, the lights are all late-19th-century chandeliers, and the rugs throughout the addition are antiques from Morra's husband's store, Fine Arts Rug, in Brookline. Each detail serves to reinforce the historic architecture while, at the same time, the new spaces introduce natural light and modern comforts.

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Architecture

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SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW
An addition that created a family room (at left) and transformed the kitchen was built and furnished to match the 1906 house.



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