

Redone to perfection

Recipes for turning ordinary kitchens into specialties of the house

Your old kitchen is a room full of nots: not enough space, not enough light, not enough storage, not enough style. So how do you get beyond the “before” picture? One way is to see how other homeowners have remodeled and reinvented their kitchens. The trick is to identify the features that fit your own situation and taste. Here are five before-and-after comparisons to help you cook up your own kitchen transformation.

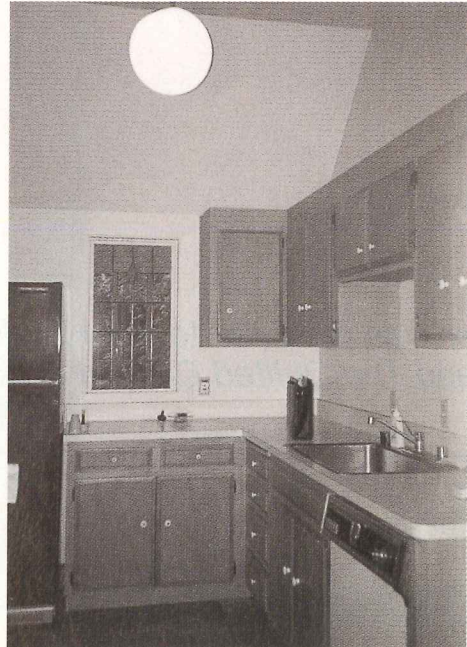
Nouvelle Gothic

Before: The small, utilitarian corner kitchen felt cramped, and despite its white walls, the dark-stained cabinets made the space feel gloomy. The small window was inadequate, reinforcing the atmosphere of a studio-apartment kitchen.

After: Calling to mind the house in Grant Wood's classic painting *American Gothic*, the kitchen is organized around a dramatic new pointed dormer window that rises from behind the sink to the very peak of the gable. Owner Ann Spillane wanted the remodeled kitchen to capture a view of the trees. The new window dominates the white-painted kitchen, flooding it with daylight. To gain enough room for a central cooktop island, the architect added 4 feet to the end of the house. A pass-through between the kitchen and dining room echoes the shape of the window and, at the same time, lets the dining room share the kitchen's new light.

DESIGN: Architect Robert Nebolon, Berkeley
CONTRACTOR: Tatangelo Construction, Dublin, California
CABINETS: Custom-made by Diablo Valley Cabinetry
PAINT: Bleached Ivory (A-110) by Fuller-O'Brien (800/338-8084)
COUNTERS: Golden Juperana granite
SINK: Galleon by Kohler (800/456-4537)
FAUCET: Franke (800/626-5771)
COOKTOP: Creda (800/992-7332)
DISHWASHER: Bosch (800/866-2022)

Before ▼



After ►



The window gable adds drama. Side panels can open.

by ANN BERTELSEN, DANIEL GREGORY,
and PETER O. WHITELEY

Cabinet appointments

Bright hues and novel materials are now on the agenda for cabinet design

Consider the kitchen cabinet. So often it's either stained brown or painted white. But today's homeowners want more zip to go with a rapidly expanding spectrum of counter choices and appliances, so cabinet design is getting more adventurous. Architects and designers are using vivid colors, sculptural shapes, and inventive finishing techniques to turn cabinets into memorable kitchen furniture.



The red corner spice cupboard above the range combines artistry with practicality.

JAMIE HADLEY

CORNERING COLOR ▶

The rich, deep green of the glass-fronted cabinets, the four-square paint detail on each drawer front, and the golden glow of the maple counters and backsplash turn the corner of this kitchen into a dramatic display area for crockery and cookbooks.

DESIGN: Architect Robert Nebolon, Berkeley

FABRICATOR: Tharp-Hamilton Woodworking, Berkeley

PAINT: Lemon Peel Yellow (A-84), Kumquat Orange (B-93), Pageant Purple (C-89), Geranium Red (C-120), and Green Slate (F-130) by Fuller-O'Brien (800/338-8084)

COUNTERS AND BACKSPLASH: Maple butcher block

◀ STORAGE AS STILL LIFE

An artful composition in mixed media—marble, stainless steel, stained wood, colored plaster, and custom-cast concrete—turns this cabinet and cooking center into a piece of sculpture. Note how the cantilevered stainless steel lip extends and slightly recesses into the cabinet door that's notched into the marble slab. The vivid red door is not flat: instead, it has an L-shaped profile that wraps a spice rack near the gas cooktop.

DESIGN: Cheng Design, Berkeley

MARBLE: Fossil Black

CABINET: Red-stained ash

FABRICATOR: William Guba & Associates, Oakland, California

BACKSPLASH: Andrus Sheet Metal, Richmond, California



Even the drawer pulls (by Exxel Decorative Hardware) coordinate with the cabinet paint scheme in this vibrant kitchen.

by DANIEL GREGORY and PETER O. WHITELEY