

Before&After Kitchens



A fresh approach gives this kitchen its groove

BLUESRevival



The new kitchen features custom upper cabinets fitted with reeded-glass doors in keeping with the classic detailing of the renovated room. The simple-style cabinets were painted with alkyd paints that evoke a vintage look.



LEFT: The 84-square-foot kitchen with dark-blue tile was cramped and uninviting. "The kitchen had few cabinets. It was truly substandard," says architect Michael Mullin.

WHAT WAS DONE

- Expanded the kitchen's length from 14 to 20 feet
- Installed custom cabinets with classic detailing
- Constructed a second doorway and new pass-through to the dining room
- Added a glass door with a transom window leading to a new deck
- Replaced old appliances with new stainless steel pro-style units

Before



LEFT: The old kitchen was very small and cut off from the rest of the house. A single modest size window was the room's only source of natural light.

After



RIGHT: To expand the space, Mullin annexed space from an adjoining room. A glass door that leads to the new deck fills the room with light.

FLOOR PLANS: STEVEN STANKIEWICZ

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PHOTOGRAPHS BY KEN GUTMAKER

Though Jason Porter enjoyed the old-fashioned flavor of his historic 1870 Victorian cottage in Oakland, California, its kitchen was in desperate need of a make-over. Wanting to create a more attractive space, Jason took advantage of a very important design option: the strategic use of color. "I was really excited about using a lot of color," says Jason, who was drawn to a palette of blue, green and gray. To improve this classic space, Jason teamed with professional color consultant and designer Jennifer Lowe, of Darsaya Design in Valley Village, California, and architect Michael Mullin, of San Francisco. "We wanted to make a kitchen that would be great for entertain-

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STORAGE INNOVATIONS

Mullin, working with Jason, stretched the space by a clever use of storage tricks.

1. Adding a swing-out rack system to a hard-to-reach corner recess behind the dishwasher increased the kitchen's storage capacity.



2. A cabinet over the refrigerator is fitted with a roll-out rack to store small appliances.

3. Deep, pull-out drawers, located behind a cabinet door, keep small bowls and mugs within reach.

ing, bring in natural light and restore the integrity of the Victorian house."

Because the home, a landmark structure, had previously been renovated into small apartments, some structural changes were necessary. Removing a bathroom allowed Mullin to expand the length of the kitchen from 14 to 20 feet. Including another doorway and taking an existing doorway off its frame gave the kitchen two entrances and more natural light. Mullin reconfigured the kitchen's floor plan to open up the space. Adding the back row of windows and a 5-foot-wide pass-through toward the dining room gives a sense of expansion in the middle of the room. This also allows Jason direct contact with his guests during food preparation."

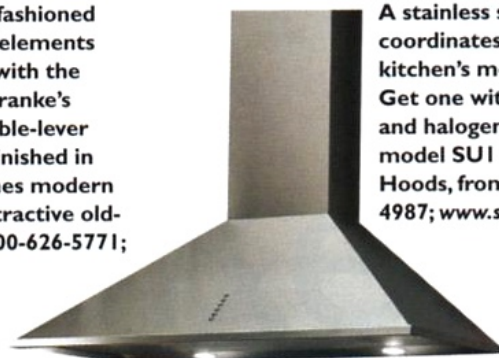
Once the structural changes were completed, attention turned to the colors and finishes. The kitchen's custom lower cabinets have a slightly darker shade of blue than the upper cabinets, giving them more heft.

Careful consideration was given to the vintage style of the kitchen. Crisp white crown molding, extra-wide baseboards and new lighting are some of the final touches that helped transform this old-school kitchen into something special. "It is an amazingly efficient kitchen," says Jason. "It is small but still feels luxurious." ■

Defining Details



In updating his old-fashioned kitchen, Jason kept elements of its historic style with the fixtures he chose. Franke's MH-200 series' double-lever gooseneck faucet, finished in satin nickel, combines modern function with an attractive old-world style. \$770. 800-626-5771; www.franke.com.



A stainless steel range hood coordinates well with the kitchen's modern appliances. Get one with multiple speeds and halogen lights, such as this model SU1 from Sirius Range Hoods, from \$923. 866-528-4987; www.siriushoods.com.



Stainless steel appliances and soapstone countertops were selected to complement the different shades of blue in the room. In contrast, walls were painted a pale yellow, which lightens up the space.

COLOR TIP

Use a lively color on the walls to help details like white woodwork pop.