

Before & After: Kitchens



The original windows were replaced with energy-saving models. The cabinet layout included storage above the refrigerator. Hardwood flooring replaced the dated vinyl.

BELOW: Originally the kitchen was a mix of plywood cabinets, harsh lighting and worn laminate counters. The location of the range interfered with the traffic pattern in the room.

Back to Basics

Uncomplicated, yet beautiful, this kitchen simply works





ABOVE: New stainless steel appliances pair well with the warm, painted-wood cabinets. Plenty of thought went into the planning of storage and surfaces. A pull-out pantry is one of the special units designed to stretch this small space.

BY TAMRA ORR
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When Rebecca and Stephen Earl read an ad for their West Hartford, Connecticut, house, it claimed that the house, originally built in 1921, came with a remodeled kitchen. Unfortunately, the remodeling had been done in 1959. However, the couple loved the traditional Dutch Colonial style of the home and the charming neighborhood, so they decided to go ahead and buy the house then redo the kitchen themselves.

The Earls met with designer Joe Currie, of Currie Design Associates in

Vernon, Connecticut, and explained that they wanted a kitchen that matched the warmth found throughout the 1920s home but with modern conveniences. Without making any structural changes and leaving the footprint intact, Currie stripped the room down to bare walls. "It was the only thing to do; nothing was worth saving," recalls Currie.

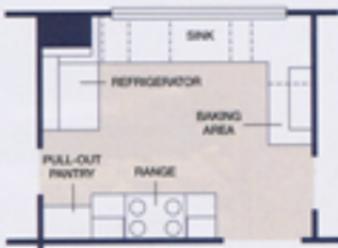
Stephen and Rebecca, who both enjoy cooking and baking, wanted a kitchen with

all-new appliances and a layout that was easy to work in. "I have a sweet tooth and love to bake," says Rebecca, "so I asked Joe to include a pastry area with a low counter for rolling out dough." She also wanted a cabinet that would serve a dual purpose: hold all her baking supplies and display her collection of Italian pottery.

"We are both really thrilled with the finished product," says Rebecca. "The new kitchen has truly made all the difference in our home." ■

Joe Currie's Top Tip

If you have collections, then keep them in mind when planning a remodel; make sure you allow space to show off your prized possessions.



ABOVE: Without altering the kitchen's footprint, Currie was able to rearrange the layout to make the space more efficient.

What Was Done

- ✓ Installed new cabinets, appliances, windows and hardwood floors
- ✓ Added granite and marble countertops
- ✓ Replaced the old lighting fixtures with new recessed ceiling lights



ABOVE: Rebecca's specially designed baking area has a lower cabinet topped with a marble counter and room for storage below. The upper cabinet, made to hold utensils and glassware, was painted to echo a color in the wallpaper.