

Dream Kitchens & Baths

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THIS PHOTO A grand window cornice above the perimeter sink complements the mantel-style range hood on the adjacent wall. Furniture-style legs and a warm gray hue distinguish the island, and a chef's office (seen through the doorway) serves as a family command center. **OPPOSITE** The island's Calacatta Gold marble top features gray veining that matches the base's paint color and the subway tiles along the room's perimeter. A prep sink adds function.



updated. Classic

Furniture-style details and elegant millwork bring welcome age and character to a new kitchen with family-friendly features.

Field editor Megan Chaffin Photographer Werner Straube

IT ALL STARTED WITH A COLOR CALLED SQUIRREL TAIL. IT DOESN'T SOUND VERY ELEGANT, but this warm gray tone inspired a kitchen that exudes classic sophistication—with just a touch of modern attitude thrown in for good measure. The versatile paint color, selected to match trim work in the adjoining family room, accents the kitchen's prep and dining island and freshens up the charming vintage style.

Designed for a young family, the kitchen—and the new house in which it resides—needed all the modern conveniences that help streamline a busy schedule. But these Chicago-area homeowners wanted to create a space that also welcomed guests with its warm and inviting character. So architect Brad Lewis, builder Jay Riordan, and interior designer Jeff Jones looked to classic forms and materials, then cleverly hid modern features behind traditional cabinet fronts.

“The most important thing a designer can do for his clients is go help give their new home an old soul,” Jones says. “We turned to history for inspiration in the kitchen.”

Furniture-style cabinetry helps set the room's vintage look. Base cabinets feature raised panels and baluster-style columns; upper cabinets are topped with impressive crown molding, and some feature glass-front doors with curved muntins. Above the range, a mantel-style hood anchors the cooking zone; an eye-catching window cornice adds grandeur to the sink wall.

Gray subway tile on the backsplash offers a pleasant contrast to the kitchen's white cabinetry and complements the island. Wood flooring lends old-fashioned charm underfoot, and a gray-green hue on the walls speaks of both past and present. “The color we chose for the walls is similar to one that was popular in Colonial times but has since been tweaked to become more compatible with today's decor,” Jones says.

Similarly, professional-style appliances ensure modern function, yet they're concealed to maintain the room's classic look. Side-by-side refrigerator and freezer units are disguised by cabinet panels, for example, and a beverage center above the wine cooler—with a built-in



coffeemaker and microwave—can be hidden away behind cabinet doors when not in use.

With a marble-topped island for casual meals and a handy chef's office for the home's busy mom tucked just off the main work zone, the kitchen's layout is perfectly suited for the needs of today. The room's cabinetry and handcrafted details evoke the past but promise to remain in style for years to come. The kitchen “truly defines what it means to be classic,” Jones says.

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ABOVE The farmhouse-style sink features a shorter apron so it works with standard base cabinets while still offering a vintage look. A polished-nickel bridge faucet merges sleek sophistication with a classic form; the high-arc spout makes it easier to fill or clean tall pots. **OPPOSITE** Porcelain subway tiles with a crackled finish are installed in a herringbone pattern above the range to add visual interest to the cooking zone. A mantel-style vent hood lends classic appeal, and a pot filler faucet lets the cook fill large pots with water right at the cooktop.



DESIGN STRATEGY >> Install subway-style backsplash tiles in a contrasting pattern above the range to create a simple and sophisticated tile mural. Frame your focal-point artwork with liner tiles to give it a finished look.



ABOVE LEFT Glass-front cabinets with decorative mullions flank the perimeter sink as well as the range hood and the refrigerator and freezer. **ABOVE RIGHT** The soapstone countertop extends in front of the microwave and built-in coffeemaker, creating a handy landing space. Cabinet doors can be pulled out to conceal the appliances when they're not in use. **LEFT** Custom panels and deep crown molding give the refrigerator and freezer the look of a built-in cabinet. They're placed near the adjoining family and dining area, making it easy for kids and guests to help themselves to a drink.

OPPOSITE Tall windows in the octagonal breakfast room reveal natural light and woodland views. Stained V-groove paneling accents the coffered ceiling.

