

Feature Focus: Amazing Kitchens!

American Farmhouse Style

Contemporary and Creative Design

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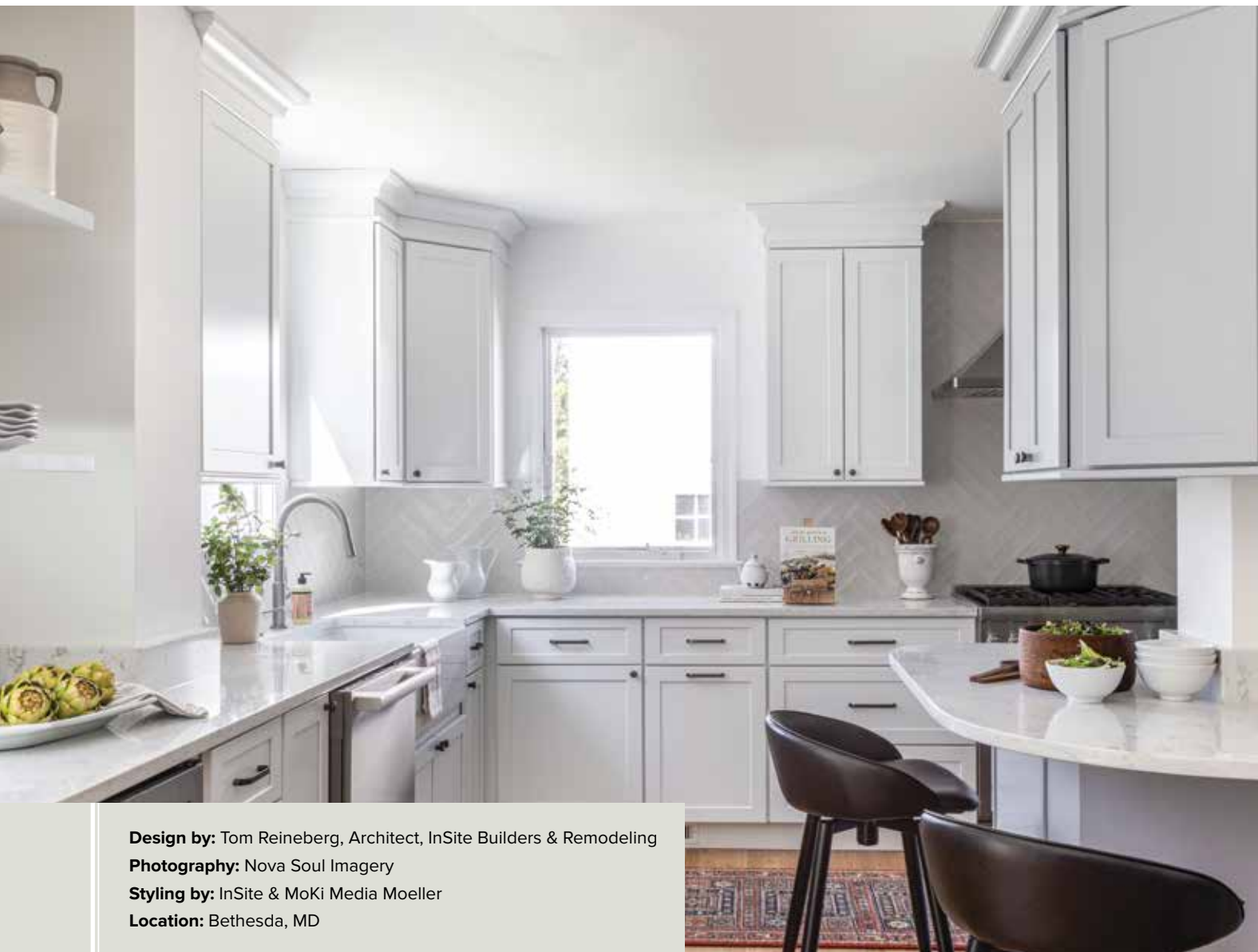
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Timeless Touches, Modern Updates

Take a tour of these farmhouse kitchen renovations that bring together the best of style and function. *By Laura Shimko*



Design by: Tom Reineberg, Architect, InSite Builders & Remodeling
Photography: Nova Soul Imagery
Styling by: InSite & MoKi Media Moeller
Location: Bethesda, MD



Shades of Gray

Modern updates in a complete renovation enhance the look, flow, and function of this kitchen over ninety years old.

ABOUT THE PROJECT:

At nearly a century old, this kitchen was in desperate need of an update, both in style and function. When the homeowners, a busy family, approached InSite Builders & Remodeling, one of their goals was to create connection between the different living areas on the first floor of the home.

The homeowners desired a more practical and spacious environment for their family. "To reach the kitchen, it was necessary to pass through the foyer, living room, and dining room—which made the home feel cramped and the flow between rooms awkward," says Mary Gordon, Vice-President at InSite Builders & Remodeling.

Another major goal was to expand the limited and unhelpful storage opportunities of the old home. "The kitchen also lacked sufficient storage, which necessitated use of the basement or an inconvenient step-down, multi-purpose storage room with a low sloped ceiling with a floor that was 30 inches below the kitchen," Mary says.

The team at InSite worked on a design that would revolutionize the space and provide the storage the family needed. They did this by incorporating the multi-purpose storage room into the innovative design, re-leveling it, and opening the layout by combining the breakfast area and semi-formal dining room. They also added a peninsula and bar area for hosting and more workspace. These changes not only doubled the storage capacity but provided better flow. "Most importantly, the kitchen connects directly to the main foyer, enhancing the flow of the house and creating an overall sense of spaciousness that was previously non-existent," Mary says. "The kitchen is now functional, efficient and offers all the modern amenities essential for a busy, active family."

BIGGEST CHALLENGE:

Relocating the kitchen was the hardest part of this renovation, due to having to remove the low roof in the storage area, re-level the floor with the rest of the first floor, and construct a new roof for the first floor. "This adjustment was crucial to ensure the new roof aesthetically matched the home's exterior but didn't impede egress windows in the second-floor bedroom," Mary says.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

We love how the warm wood floor and dining set contrast perfectly with the soft, calming palette of grays, whites and black. Also, the lovely herringbone glossy white backsplash adds nice texture and pattern to the overall design.

Like what you see? Reach out to Mary at mary@insiteremodeling.com.



Finding your *Muse*

Palette inspiration can come from many places—including a bold and eye-catching oven.

Design: Miretta Interiors
Photography: Dustin Peck
Location: Raleigh, NC

Are you planning a kitchen renovation but stuck on some of the aesthetic details? Sometimes, it takes a special piece to get those creative juices flowing. Art, appliances, vintage pieces, tile, and even rugs can serve as inspiration for your kitchen design, and beyond.

In this kitchen renovation, the homeowners loved cooking and wanted a space that was not only functional but beautiful. “They fell in love with this navy Bluestar range, and it was one of the things that drove the palette for the whole space,” Zandy Gammons, owner of Miretta Interiors, says. “We wanted the hood to compliment the beauty of the range, so we added brass details to pull it all together.”

Because the bold and beautiful blue steals the show, Zandy went with a more understated, canvas-like design for the rest of the space that allows the oven to shine. “Since this was such a focal point, we stayed simplistic with the tile and white cabinets surrounding it.”



From Dated to Delightful

A mixture of vintage and modern touches gives this kitchen renovation a timeless feel.

ABOUT THE PROJECT:

When the homeowners purchased this older home, they knew it needed work to get it where they wanted and needed it to be for their family of four. “The original home was very dark and did not have a lot of natural light,” says Kieran Fannan, Project Architect at TriVistaUSA Design + Build says. “The focus of the design was to increase natural light and create a light, bright new space for our clients.”

In addition, the original kitchen was cramped and dated, so the team also updated and reimagined the layout to better serve their clients. To do this, they completely moved the kitchen to another area of the house that would allow for a better flow in the space.

They embraced the homeowners’ love of vintage pieces and modern design, and the team worked to build an aesthetic that felt classic and timeless with touches of modern. “The deep green island painted in Sherwin-Williams Forestwood grounds the center of the new kitchen, while the St. Tropez Verde ceramic tile backsplash brings a bit of a Mediterranean feel to the entire space,” says Kieran. “Natural and pendant lighting shines on the Champagne Bronze two-handle faucet and cabinet hardware.”

BIGGEST CHALLENGE:

Relocating the kitchen was the hardest aspect of this renovation project. “The area where the kitchen was moved to had a large beam above a portion of cabinets, which initially would have required an odd shaped bulkhead,” says Kieran. “We decided to modify the bulkhead to conceal the beam and extended it over all the cabinets to create a raised ceiling detail. In the end, it created a more dramatic space and accentuated the island as a focal point.”

EDITOR’S SNAPSHOT:

We love the dark green island—it really stands out without distracting from the overall design. The bronze elements—faucet, hardware, and pendant lighting—are lovely and add warmth.

Like what you see? Reach out to **TriVistaUSA Design + Build** at 703.243.3171 or trivistausa.com.



Design by: Kieran Fannan, Project Architect, TriVistaUSA Design + Build
Other Project Credits: Denny Lewis, Project Manager & Sara Meier, Project Coordinator, TriVistaUSA Design + Build
Photography: Nova Soul Imagery
Styling: Moki Media Moeller
Location: Washington, DC



Design by: Tom Reineberg, Architect, InSite Builders & Remodeling
Photography: Nova Soul Imagery
Styling by: InSite & MoKi Media Moeller
Location: Kensington, MD

Cool & Contemporary

A new layout and thoughtful design elements breathe new life into the kitchen of this single-level, ranch-style home.

ABOUT THE PROJECT:

After a previous kitchen renovation under the previous owners included a long, narrow extension of one side, the new homeowners decided to launch a new renovation project in order to better use the space. "It didn't connect to the kitchen, and the pantry was too narrow to be useful," says Mary Gordon, Vice-President at InSite Builders & Remodeling. "To get to the kitchen, the family had to pass through the foyer and the dining room."

The new homeowners never used the dining room, and preferred to have a large island in the kitchen to sit at and have their meals. "They hoped to convert the dining room and kitchen into a large open area that would combine an entirely new kitchen and a new family room," Mary says.

"The layout and appliances were important to the family too," Mary adds, "because the husband loves cooking for family and friends. A laundry and mudroom were added adjacent to the kitchen, which made the first floor more functional while providing extra storage options, including a new pantry that is double the size of the old one."

BIGGEST CHALLENGE:

Renovating to meet the current homeowners' goals on top of a previous (poorly designed) renovation proved difficult for the team, but not insurmountable. "This involved integrating the old kitchen and dining room into a cohesive design on the right scale to function properly," Mary says.

Another major issue was the uneven ceiling. The homeowners requested new cabinets reaching to the ceiling, necessitating a level ceiling. "Achieving this required meticulous attention to detail and a high level of expertise," Mary says.

EDITOR'S SNAPSHOT:

The stainless-steel appliances and glass wall framed between hood and range stand out as a ripple of texture against the white canvas backdrop. We also love the big island, perfect for entertaining family and friends.

Like what you see? Reach out to InSite at mary@insiteremodeling.com.

Creating Connection

Fun-colored appliances can be the springboard for larger picture palette choices.

Photography: Dustin Peck
Location: Raleigh, NC, inside the Beltline

Your kitchen design doesn't need to be limited to the kitchen. In fact, finding ways to repeat colors, textures and/or patterns present in the kitchen throughout the rest of your home is an important part of a cohesive home design.

You can see that principle at work in this 1944 build, which had been renovated multiple times. The most recent occupants had painted everything dark. When the new owners purchased the home, they wanted to bring in a light and bright, nature-infused design.

"My client loves to be outdoors and wanted to bring that feeling inside," Zandy Gammons, owner of Miretta Interiors, says. The oven is the focal point of the kitchen and provides not only a pop of color in the kitchen but is mirrored in the palette throughout the home. "The yellow is a soft marigold color that we were drawn to during the selection process," Zandy says. "We incorporated that color in other areas of her home in subtle ways."



Opening Up

Creative changes to the layout of this kitchen helped to increase the functionality, while a fun palette enhances the light and bright feel of the space.

ABOUT THE PROJECT:

This 1980s home had a big kitchen, but the homeowners, who loved to entertain, wanted it to be more functional. They called on Miretta Interiors to help them create a space that met both their aesthetic and practical needs. "This project was a huge renovation," says Zandy Gammons, owner of Miretta Interiors. "The kitchen was exceptionally large, considering the year it was built (1981); but, unfortunately, a lot of that space wasn't being properly utilized."

To achieve the homeowner's goals, Zandy and her team got to work completely reimagining the space so that the layout used all the available space, as well as provided better connection between the kitchen and nearby den.

"When we opened up these rooms, the natural light flowed in from their backyard," Zandy says. "We stayed true to the style of the home while updating almost every inch of it." Additionally, they created a customized built-in pantry with appliance storage for even more functional benefits.

The palette of the kitchen stands out, transitioning from clean and classic grays and whites to splashes of fun blues and yellows. "The clients were particularly excited about using pops of color throughout," Zandy says.

BIGGEST CHALLENGE:

Older homes often have quirks, especially those that have experienced one or more renovations over the decades. This house was no exception. "We had to take some of the oddities of the house and incorporate them into our design," Zandy says. "We take pride in reimagining spaces, but sometimes we run into some weird challenges with old homes."

EDITOR'S SNAPSHOT:

The transition from grays to fun, bright colors is a unique feature of this kitchen. We love the contrast and how it creates a separation between the kitchen and banquette while still feeling connected as one open space.

Like what you see? Reach out to Miretta Interiors at [919.235.0030](tel:919.235.0030) or info@mirettainteriors.com



Design by: Miretta Interiors
Photography: Dustin Peck
Location: Raleigh, NC



Open shelving keeps the space open visually and prevents a feeling of overcrowding. Champagne bronze hardware, faucet and lighting add a touch of warmth. The farmhouse apron sink evokes a countryside feel, while the black and white hexagon tile flooring has a sophisticated Parisian, Art Deco vibe.

Vintage French Farmhouse

This 1890s build received a loving renovation featuring modern updates while preserving historic charm.

ABOUT THE PROJECT:

When designer Susan Klimala and her husband Jeff purchased this unit, part of a 4-flat building in Chicago, IL, as a second home, they saw past the lengthy list of updates needed and envisioned a cozy, charming space infused with a Parisian vibe. “We were drawn to the location of the building, a vibrant Chicago neighborhood just four blocks from Wrigley Field, as well as to the vintage charm of the 1890s building,” Susan says.

The kitchen needed both cosmetic and mechanical upgrades, from the HVAC, electrical, and plumbing to structural updates, plaster and uneven flooring. “We drew on our expertise to update the issue behind the walls, while also preserving much of the original charm that attracted us to the building in the first place—such as the heart pine floors, vintage moldings, pocket doors and transoms,” Susan says. Thankfully, there were no major layout changes, except for moving the locations of some of the appliances.

BIGGEST CHALLENGE:

Because the home would serve as a part-time residence, and part-time Airbnb, it was difficult finding the balance between a more elevated Parisian aesthetic while also making practical choices on materials that would stand up to frequent use. “We selected hardworking appliances, semi-custom cabinets, inexpensive but period appropriate hexagon floor tile and then splurged on a handmade tile backsplash for a ‘high-low’ approach that is both stylish and approachable,” Susan says.

EDITOR’S SNAPSHOT:

We love the deep green cabinetry, door and floating shelves, and the contrasting light and bright palette. The handmade backsplash is a subtle pop of dimension and texture. Timeless and elegant, the design has just the right mixture of charm and simplicity.



Design by: Susan Klimala, Owner and Principal Design of TKS Design Group
Photography: Margaret Rajic
Styling by: Brandi Devers Russow
Location: Chicago, IL

Like what you see? Reach out to TKS Design Group at [tksdesigngroup.com](https://www.tksdesigngroup.com).