

Building Up *Style*



Clear priorities and an open outlook helped these homeowners create an efficient, timeless space in which they can cook, dine, and entertain in style.

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Simple touches of Christmas subtly enhance this home's décor. An antique papier-mâché Santa, a family relic, is displayed to spread Christmas cheer. Fresh greenery is incorporated in lush wreaths and swaths and even adorns the faux deer trophy located on the home's screened porch.



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For Kate Hartman, good design is constantly evolving. Kate and her husband purchased their home with great aspirations for their too-small kitchen. As cooking enthusiasts and frequent hosts, the Hartmans needed to strike a careful balance as they planned their renovation.


Practicalities for cooking took priority in the materials and details of the kitchen. A walnut-topped island elevated to 38 inches—2 inches above average

countertop height—lends itself to easy food preparation, and an in-island prep sink adds to the efficiency of the kitchen. Kate chose to dress the remaining cabinets with marble countertops for a light finish that is also easy to clean. “We cook a lot so we wanted a kitchen that was functional,” Kate says. “I also like the mixed textures, with the wood on the island and marble on the other countertops. It just gives it a little something extra so it doesn’t look too stale or uniform.”



The Hartmans wanted their kitchen to serve as a gathering area for friends and family. “It doesn’t matter how small your house is, I feel like everyone hangs out in the kitchen,” Kate says. Removing several walls created the open concept that makes this the perfect space for guests to comfortably mingle. And by painting the cabinets in light tones and leaving the window unobstructed, they maximized the natural light in the space, creating a kitchen that looks and feels spacious.

Kate’s thoughtful infusion of beloved accessories in both the kitchen and the dining room creates a comfortable, homey feel. Favorite pieces, including vintage bar stools and antique glass cleverly repurposed into doors, set the tone for the space while smaller pieces complement the look. By carefully choosing a few favorite pieces and slowly introducing new items, Kate flawlessly refines her décor.

“It takes time to build up your style,” she says. “I’m constantly adding and taking away so that the design evolves. Some things stay the same, but some things will always be changing.” 

PERSONAL TOUCHES

A small alcove adjacent to the kitchen holds a butler’s pantry and is the perfect setting for Kate to display vintage barware, which is one of her favorite ways to incorporate holiday sparkle into her space. Past the alcove, antique glass set into custom-built doorframes makes a beautiful statement visible from the kitchen and the sitting area. The doors seamlessly hide a combination laundry room and pantry filled with ample storage and space to do laundry.

