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REWORKING

BY JACQUELINE deMONTRAVEL
PHOTOGRAPHY BY THOM GREENE

the past

A kitchen renovation
incorporates past influences
for a one-of-a-kind result.

IF YOU WANT A DOWNTON ABBEY STYLE KITCHEN but have a dependency on your coffee maker and don't want housekeepers fighting, follow the saga of this Chicago kitchen renovation. The firm Greene & Proppe Design, Inc. worked with homeowner Doug Taylor to create a kitchen that appeared to have evolved over time.

To create a historically accurate kitchen that also functions in the present, Greene & Proppe Design used different materials, finishes and a retro color scheme. "The Taylor kitchen is special because behind every detail is a concept, story or memory. It's a unique space, but the loving heart that conceived this kitchen and the thought, planning and design that created it are what make it extraordinary," says Rick Proppe, Principal Interior Designer.

Those who relish past times typically hold on to their treasures, so storage and open glass shelving for Doug's vintage collectibles were also needed. In the demo process, the original intercom pipes were found, which fueled the design objective to stay true to past periods. The added space was used for the stove, food prep counter, storage and prep sink; creating a workspace for the hired cook.

Doug did not want to fall into a prescribed, predictable look. In order to create a kitchen that shows the influence of multiple past decades and



Opposite: The cabinet next to the stove is the main food prep area with everyday dishes on the open shelf above. "I wanted this to look like a dining room sideboard, not a kitchen counter," says Doug.

The white glass-front cabinets match the originals in the pantry to keep the look authentic. "The little side table between the back door and the pantry was my invention when I realized the kitchen couldn't have a sink with porcelain legs but it could have a table with porcelain legs."



{ Before }



accommodates his stainless refrigerator, he incorporated six different cabinet styles that captured past eras.

The cooking nook is inspired by the kitchen in the film “Driving Miss Daisy,” with light-stained birch cabinets that are meant to appear within the wall instead of against it. “One side holds dry goods; the other pots, pans and casserole dishes. Next, the stove is housed in a nook within the nook, surrounded by tiled half walls and the giant copper hood,” says Doug.

A white porcelain piece given to Doug’s parents by his grandparents is displayed in a lighted niche. “No one ever really knew what it was, but it always hung on the wall

somewhere in the dining room. For a while it held a sad Philodendron vine; after that, plastic fruit my Mom spray-painted aqua with gold glitter. Sometime in the mid-1970s it ended up in a box in my parents’ basement,” says Doug.

Leading up to the kitchen’s completion, Doug held a contest that asked family members questions alluding to the porcelain piece. While there was no winner, there were some hearty laughs. This same kind of personalized charm is what makes his kitchen work.

Top Left: The spice cabinet is meant to look older than the house, a forgotten vestige from a past owner.

Top Right and Bottom: The variety of finishes, paired with true vintage pieces, creates a unique yet cohesive design.

For more information

on Greene & Proppe Design, Inc. please visit gpdchicago.com.



This unique space captures the essence of multiple eras through a collection of carefully selected materials and finishes.



shopping guide

Simply

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Vintage kitchen wares and accessories:

Surroundings by Melinda (239) 579-0409 or visit surroundingsbymelinda.com.

In Time

Pages 42–49

Vera Wang Delicate Dreams Fashion

Bouquet: (800) 736-3383 or FTD.com.

Romantic Vintage

Pages 60–67

Design: Melanie Bowe of En Vie Interiors, (910) 512-3277 or visit envieinteriors.com.

Kitchen Roundup

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Durable Femininity design: Martha O'Hara Interiors, (612) 670-6771 or visit oharainteriors.com.

Vintage Escape design: CapeRace Cultural Adventures, visit caperace.com.

Historical Colonial design: Charmean Neithart Interiors, LLC. (626) 234-2161 or charmear-neithart-interiors.com.

Traditional Inspiration design: Joani Stewart-Georgi, Montana Ave. Interiors, visit montanaaveinteriors.com.

Cabinets and beams: Swiss Woodworking, (310) 771-0622 or visit swisswoodworking.com.

Flooring: International Flooring, (310) 859-0044.

Lighting: Bryden Electrical, (310) 828-0965 or visit brydenelectrical.com.

Area rug: Aga John, visit agajohnrugssf.com.

Reworking the Past

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Archive Designs: archivedesigns.com.

Paint: Benjamin Moore, visit benjaminmoore.com.

Blueberry Woodworking: (847) 506-0580.

Some appliances: Kitchen Aid, visit kitchenaid.com.

Counters and flooring: Marble & Granite Supply of Illinois, visit marble-granites.com; Stonecutters, visit stonecutters.com and Tile Gallery, visit tilegallerychicago.com.

Lighting: rejuvenation.com.

Faucet: Rohl, visit rohlhome.com.

Refrigerator: Sub-Zero, visit subzero-wolf.com.

Range: Viking, visit vikingrange.com.



coming next month



ROMANTIC HOLIDAY

Sweet details and treats will make this winter *one of charm and fond memories.*

A home nestled amid snow-covered trees perfectly epitomizes the holidays ahead. Be inspired by a homeowner who uses white to celebrate the season and incorporates a wide variety of vintage treasures and contrasting textures for a unique holiday handcrafted design.