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Favorite Pumpkin Pie

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To Cozy Up
Your Bedroom

Flea-Market Style

15 Ways to Reuse, Recycle, and Refresh



Pumpkin Pie
With Cranberry
Caramel Topper

New Heart of the Home

New parents transform the dark ground-floor kitchen of this 1904 Brooklyn brownstone into a cozy, light-filled, family-friendly hub.

BY LAURA O'NEIL PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHN GRUEN PRODUCED BY CYNTHIA BOGART



The Family

Siobhan O'Neill, a former theatrical booking agent, and husband Rob Adler, a school social worker, have a three-story brownstone with a kitchen on the bottom floor. The couple, who now have an infant son, Raphael, remodeled the dark and dated kitchen into a brighter, more open and modern place for the family to hang out.

The Challenge

The kitchen was less than ideal, with faux brick walls, old appliances, and one tiny window. Siobhan and Rob wanted up-to-the-minute appliances yet some sense of the brownstone's history, plus a connection to the outdoors and rear garden off the kitchen.

The Solution

The couple hired interior designer S. Lee Wright to remodel the room into a modern, usable family space. They gutted the kitchen and removed adjacent pantry walls to create a 12-by-22-foot room. The new layout has a center island with oven and cooktop, built-in desk, eating area with banquette, and cabinetry in two finishes—cream color paint and cherry wood. To save money, the couple used semi-custom cabinetry from a home center, and gave it a personal touch with acorn- and leaf-shape cabinet pulls. Wright designed the unique 7-inch-deep floor-to-ceiling pantry with chalkboards and bulletin boards on the doors.



The Problems

- Troweled ceiling
- Faux brick walls
- Deteriorating millwork
- Minimal counter space
- No storage
- Dated appliances

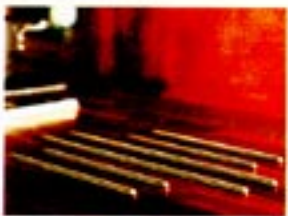
“The secret to the look is in the mix of finishes. It’s the balance of colors, contrasts, and textures that makes you feel comfortable.”

S. LEE WRIGHT, INTERIOR DESIGNER



LOVE THIS!

Built-in trivet rods prevent hot pots from scorching countertops made of wood, laminate, concrete, quartz surfacing, and solid surfacing. Ask a contractor to install stainless-steel, brass, or copper rods.



The Material Mix

1 WOOD:

A store-bought hutch, base cabinets in cherry, and iroko countertop offer a welcoming and worn furniture look.

2 STONE:

The cool soapstone sink and counter, and slate mosaic tile backsplash personalize with texture and contrast with the warmth of wood.

3 PAINT:

The ceiling’s golden finish adds sparkle and spaciousness. Creamy cabinets balance darker choices.

4 METAL:

Stainless-steel appliances, bronze cabinetry hardware, and satin nickel light fixture give a high-end touch.

Make it yours: 3 ideas to borrow

1 BUILDING BLOCKS

While kitchen cabinets were being installed, Siobhan and Rob used semi-custom stock cabinets to create an affordable bench, then covered it with a cushion in stripe fabric with coordinating pillows.

2 INSTANT MESSAGING

Create a chalk or bulletin board to keep up with family activities and to-do lists. Use the space on cabinet doors to roll on chalkboard paint or adhere a cork panel.



3 STORE MORE STUFF

Freestanding cupboards give a kitchen a personal, furnished look while providing storage. The brand-new piece in Siobhan and Rob's kitchen adds a comforting sense of age to the room. It's used to store bottles, glassware, and serving dishes. 🍷



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