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cottage kitchens



Bring in the Light

DESIGNED BY: STEPHEN GORDON, INSITE BUILDERS & REMODELING AND DRG DESIGNS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY: ANGELA NEWTON ROY PHOTOGRAPHY



This 1948 cottage kitchen

received a complete renovation that opened the space for better functionality and incorporated a primarily white palette to enhance the abundance of natural light.

"The homeowners were looking for a 'heart-of-the-home' open concept so the family could gather to talk, cook and eat together," designer Stephen Gordon says.

This functional goal led to changing the layout of the kitchen to accommodate a better flow, as well as a large island and plenty of storage.

"A large island at which to congregate and dine and more space for storage were two specific requests," Stephen says. The dark-gray island and stainless steel appliances pop against the white cabinets, countertops and backsplash, while the red oak flooring adds warmth.

Tip If you're going with white cabinetry, break it up visually with colored or stainless steel appliances.

LOCATION: Bethesda, Maryland

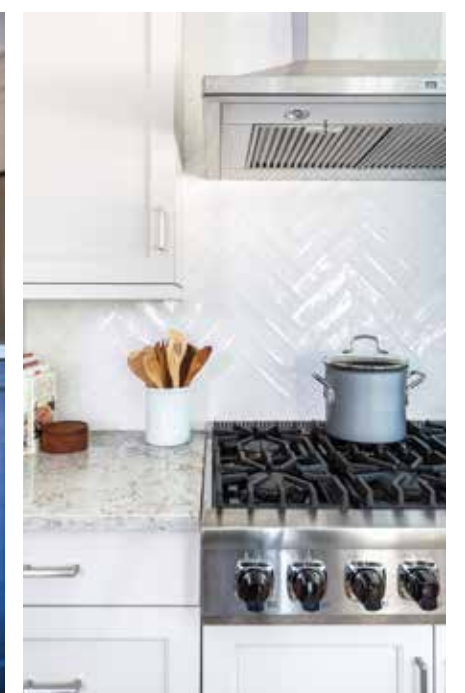
FEATURES:

- **Chevron backsplash.** This simple, yet visually interesting, style is growing in popularity in kitchen design. While the homeowners wanted to keep the backsplash white, the chevron pattern elevates the look and feel of the overall design. "It adds a sense of texture to the kitchen without overpowering the clean, bright aesthetic of the room," Stephen says.
- **Island cooler.** For those who love to entertain, including functional features in your kitchen design is a must. The homeowners requested a built-in island cooler to accommodate hosting friends and family.
- **Wraparound seating.** Unlike many kitchen islands or breakfast bar concepts that only include a few barstools on one side, this large kitchen island features wraparound seating.
- **Slide-in cooktop.** Balancing storage needs with food preparation and hosting opportunities, the homeowners chose stacked double ovens and a Viking slide-in cooktop to optimize the space. "The slide-in cooktop with the vertical-faced controls resembles a commercial piece of equipment and gives a professional look," Stephen says. The cabinetry below allows for further storage options.
- **Oversized window.** Over-the-sink windows are a classic cottage kitchen feature that allow for natural light and a glimpse of the outdoors. Here, a large window allows for even more light, working with the white cabinets, counters and backsplash to give the space a clean and bright feel.



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True Blue

DESIGNED BY: STEPHEN GORDON, INSITE BUILDERS & REMODELING AND KEYSER INTERIORS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY: STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG

To give this cottage an updated look and more functional flow, designer Stephen Gordon worked with Keyser Interiors to craft an open floor plan with timeless features. While much of the palette is bright white, Stephen's team made sure to incorporate details to add visual interest.



"We added pops of color and texture with the glass backsplash and island," he says.

The blue island serves as the focal point of the space, because its blue paint finish contrasts with the otherwise white palette. Transitional-styled cabinetry adds charm, while the re-stained original hardwood flooring adds warmth.

Tip Make a statement by selecting a single color as the theme throughout your kitchen, and make it pop by keeping a neutral background. Find creative ways to incorporate the color into various features or pieces in the space to balance the look.



LOCATION: Bethesda, Maryland

FEATURES:

- **Glass pendant lighting.** Stephen's team opted for light features from the homeowners' collection that complemented the coastal palette. "We wanted something modern for the light fixtures that would create an interesting focal point without being too heavy," Stephen says.
- **Built-in wine storage.** Stephen and his team included these built-in shelves to store the homeowners' wine. "The homeowners wanted a bar area for entertaining, and we wanted to use it as a great focal and storage area as well," Stephen points out.
- **Glass backsplash.** Mosaic Calcutta tile serves as a pop of color throughout the kitchen. "We wanted to add color and texture to the space without it getting too busy," Stephen says. The varying height of the backsplash—sometimes partially and sometimes fully covering the walls—also adds visual interest against the white cabinetry and paint.
- **Colored island.** The "Polo Blue" island cabinets from Elmwood offer a coastal cottage feel and a bold contrast to the clean and crisp white counters and perimeter cabinetry. "We wanted to break up all the white in the space and add dimension with the navy island," Stephen explains.
- **Window cabinets.** Glass doors offer opportunities for displaying special pieces. The transitional-styled custom cabinetry from Elmwood is a classic finish and adds charm. "We wanted to create some decorative storage areas, and using mullion doors allowed us to keep the window area light," Stephen says.