

KITCHEN TRENDS



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In character

With its raised diamond panels and traditional detailing, this kitchen addition is right at home in a 1920s English-style country house designed by renowned Chicago architect Ernest A Grunsfeld Jr

Above: To enhance the transparency and openness of this adjoining breakfast room and kitchen, the overhead cabinets are glazed on both sides. Both rooms are within a new addition to a traditional English-style country house. The Gothic chandelier is by Dennis & Leen.

Facing page: Walls in the kitchen are tiled – the tiles are a similar shade to the Costa Smeralda granite countertops. The antiqued hood and brackets were custom made.

Houses with a strong architectural history present their own challenges when it comes to remodeling – how do you meet modern lifestyle requirements without sacrificing the intrinsic character of the home?

The solution for this project by Stuart Cohen & Julie Hacker Architects was to keep the focus firmly on the original architecture.

Cohen says the English-style, white-painted country house was designed by the late architect Ernest A Grunsfeld Jr, who also designed the Chicago Planetarium. Some of the original appeal of the house had been lost, however,

following earlier remodeling projects, including a new kitchen in the 1980s.

"The kitchen had no relationship to the design of the house – it had a black-and-white checkerboard floor, white laminate cabinets and a low 7ft ceiling," says Cohen.

In planning a new addition to house the kitchen, breakfast room, mud room, garage and stairwell, the architects took their cue from the existing millwork in the house. A raised diamond panel that appears on cabinets in the living room and on all the interior doors was replicated in the stained alder wood kitchen



Architect: Stuart Cohen FAIA, Julie Hacker FAIA; project architects – Steve Liska, Amy Mangold, Suzanne Shumaker, Stuart Cohen & Julie Hacker Architects LLC (Evanston, IL)

Interior designer: Lauren Coburn, Lauren Coburn LLC

Cabinet company: Paoli Woodworking

Cabinetry: Alder wood

Countertops and backsplash: Costa Smeralda granite from Marble & Granite Supply

Stone flooring: Antique Dalle de Bourgogne limestone from Paris Ceramic Stone

Wood flooring: Select white oak

Wall tiles: Ann Sacks

Doors and windows: Marvin

Dining table and chairs: Old Plank Antiques

Lighting: Ferrante lighting above island; Gothic chandelier by Dennis & Leen; lanterns by Remains; butler's pantry lighting by Sorenson

Main kitchen sink: Blanco

Faucets: Perrin & Rowe

Butler's pantry sink: Custom made by the German Silver Sink Company

Oven and cooktop: Wolf

Ventilation: Custom, with Wolf blower

Story by Colleen Hawkes

Photography by Dave Burk/Hedrich Blessing



Legend: 1 Kitchen, 2 breakfast room, 3 walk-in pantry, 4 pantry, 5 butler's pantry.

Above right: Alder wood cabinets were stained to match cabinetry and millwork elsewhere in the house. The cabinets by the sink feature turned columns.

Facing page: The butler's pantry, in the original part of the house, features a German silver sink with an S-shaped divider.

cabinets. Alder was chosen as the best, and most consistent match with the existing cabinets.

"We also replicated the crown moulding, base boards and the casing around the doors," says Hacker. "But we invented the rest of the vocabulary of the woodwork. The island and sink cabinet, for example, feature a classical column design, which is a homage to renowned English architect Sir Edwin Lutyens."

Cabinetry between the kitchen and breakfast room is glazed front and back to provide a transparency that visually connects the two spaces, enhancing the sense of a single room.

All the walls in the kitchen are tiled to match the Costa Smeralda granite countertops. The floors are tiled in reclaimed stone from France chosen for its warm, textural appeal.

Other special features include a custom steel hood and cabinet brackets, both of which have an antiqued patina in keeping with the era.

The architects also provided a walk-in pantry and a large butler's pantry with a new custom-made German silver sink.

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