

Better Homes and Gardens Special Interest

Better
Homes
and Gardens

KITCHEN + BATH IDEAS

**Fresh
Makeovers**
(Before Photos
Included!)

**How to
Choose
and Use
Color** p. 12

SPRING 2014
Display until June 9
BHG.com/KitchenBath

**30 Most
Innovative
Products** p. 53

Pretty Backsplash Designs p. 32





Steel, concrete, cedar, bamboo, zinc, graphite, quartz-surfacing, stainless steel, and three types of glass—textured, mirrored, and mosaic—mingle easily in the innovative kitchen of a 121-year-old home.

modern revision

AN OLD HOME LEARNS NEW
TRICKS WITH A STYLISH
CONTEMPORARY RENOVATION.

writer MARA BOO photographer WERNER STRAUBE field editor MEGAN CHAFFIN



LEFT: Everyday dishware is showcased inside upper cabinets rimmed in stainless steel and backed by windows. The softly textured glass doors allow natural light to pass into the kitchen. **BELOW LEFT:** Simple mosaic glass tiles cover the range wall. "This kitchen is all about strong architectural lines," architect Elissa Morgante says. "To interrupt those lines with a fussy focal point at the range would have been inappropriate." **BELOW MIDDLE:** The island's quartz-surfacing work area includes a handy prep sink. **BELOW RIGHT:** The dishwasher is concealed behind bamboo panels to enhance the clean aesthetic. **OPPOSITE:** The tall, narrow window over the sink descends nearly to the countertop, allowing an uninterrupted view of the garden below. One of the owners is a landscape designer, so the feature is much appreciated.



TO HUSBAND-AND-WIFE



architects Fred Wilson and Elissa Morgante, the story is familiar. Chapter One: An excited couple falls in love with an old house.

Chapter Two: They eventually realize that their new home is ill-suited to modern living. Chapter Three: The couple dreams about making changes. Chapter Four: Morgante and Wilson receive a call for help.

Like all good stories, however, this one has a plot twist. "It turns out our clients' taste had evolved to become a lot more contemporary than their house," Morgante says. "They're busy parents and craved a kitchen that would be the center of everything that goes on. They never thought we could make that work in a house that dates from 1893."

Resourceful characters themselves, Morgante and Wilson transformed the outdated kitchen into the edgy hub the homeowners wished for by taking a novel approach. "We took out walls," Morgante says, "which opened up the floor plan and automatically made the space feel much more contemporary." They installed steel beams to support the house, then unabashedly used them as a daring design statement.



CONTEMPORARY KITCHEN STYLES

Do you gravitate toward warm modern style or are you a more sleek-and-chic minimalist? Find them all in our gallery. BHG.com/Contemporary



LEFT: Mirrored glass cabinets at the bar add an elegant touch with an antiqued flair that embraces the new look for the old space. **BELOW LEFT:** A smartly conceived walk-in pantry does double duty as a petite office. **BELOW MIDDLE:** A band of concrete extends from the island's upper level to form its outer edge—an example of the extraordinary detail that belies the kitchen's deceptively simple design. **BELOW RIGHT:** An industrial-style light fixture embellishes the dining area, where a noteworthy mix of materials and finishes captures the kitchen's essence. **OPPOSITE:** The zinc-topped custom dining table is supported by a quartersawn-oak base. Channel-stitched faux leather cosies the seating area as it climbs the wall to meet a canopy crafted of 1x4 cedar planks.



Takeaways

- 1** Opening the kitchen to surrounding rooms creates a contemporary vibe.
- 2** Materials such as concrete and bamboo lend natural texture and interest.
- 3** Emphasizing support structure, rather than hiding it, fosters a modern feel.
- 4** Mixing earthy materials with industrial elements creates a welcoming contemporary style.

"We needed the beams for structural reasons, of course, but we decided to go a step further and actually celebrate them," Wilson says.

Equally defining is the bold mix of finishes and materials—some industrial, others earthy—that characterizes the room, from concrete countertops and bamboo cabinets to cedar paneling, a graphite island, and a zinc dining table. "They're not necessarily familiar materials to use in a kitchen," Morgante says, "but using them in concert creates an organic kind of texture and warmth. This way, the kitchen is clean-lined but still friendly. If, for example, we had done the room with all-white cabinets and a black countertop, it would have been too starkly contemporary for such an old house."

Still, certain aspects of its design—such as the highly efficient layout and the breakfast room addition—are as current as can be. "Everything in this kitchen is right at your fingertips," Wilson says. "It's got a bar, an office, an island, and multiple work spaces. It welcomes guests while keeping them out of the cook's way. It's a real counterpoint to the original kitchen, which had you walking all over just to make dinner."

A happy ending, indeed. **KBI**

RESOURCES BEGIN ON PAGE 138.



DESIGN TIP
A canopy defines a breakfast nook within the larger space while adding intimacy.