

# The Storage Issue

# KITCHEN

# + BATH IDEAS

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### 28 Problem-Solving Ideas

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# new chapter

A FARMHOUSE KITCHEN GETS RELOCATED AND EXPANDED

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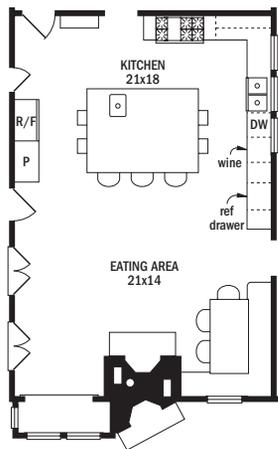


BUT REMAINS ATTACHED TO ITS ROOTS.

Seating pulls up around three sides of the island for doing homework, snacking, or visiting with the cook.



**THIS PHOTO:** A subtle crackle finish on the subway tile backsplash and an oiled-bronze finish on the custom range hood nod to the home's roots. **OPPOSITE BOTTOM:** Mimicking the look of an armoire, this cabinet houses a built-in refrigerator and freezer on the right and pantry storage on the left. **OPPOSITE TOP:** Apron-front styling gives the main sink vintage charm.



**S**tories of a family and its home are inseparable—each becomes part of the other’s history. That’s why the new owners of this 19th-century farmhouse in Ghent, New York, felt comfortable asking architect Kate Johns to create a large kitchen geared for modern living: It was simply a continuation of the ongoing story.

“The couple has two daughters,” Johns says. “They truly live in the kitchen, so they wanted it to be as much for family life and entertaining as it is for cooking and enjoying meals. But it was also important to them to celebrate the home’s historic elements.”

Moving the kitchen to a different part of the house allowed Johns to add on, doubling the size of the space. A supersize island serves as the hub of activity and helps distinguish the kitchen work core from a sitting area augmented by a fireplace and a cozy dining spot with storage concealed within banquette seating.

More open shelving surrounds the range, here with beaded-board backing for turn-of-the-century flavor. One floor-to-ceiling unit includes rails to securely hold rows of clear-glass ingredient

jars in assorted sizes. “It is such a naturally beautiful display with all the different colors and textures, and the cook can quickly find and select ingredients,” Johns says.

The cook also benefits from the island’s generous work surface—white marble interrupted only by a small prep sink. Substantial legs allow room for numerous stools to pull up for helpers, homework, and hanging out. “The legs and open shelf give the island the feel of a big farmhouse table,” Johns says.

While the island is dressed in natural stain, perimeter cabinets don a historical gray-blue color that shows green undertones in certain light. White crackle-finish subway tiles form the backsplash.

Other elements contribute to the airy atmosphere. Tall windows behind the main sink provide views of a landscaped garden while allowing sunlight to spill in. At night, chic industrial fixtures illuminate work surfaces. Wide-plank pine flooring—salvaged from an old barn and remilled—adds vintage warmth.

“There’s really just such a beautiful, natural flow to this kitchen,” Johns says. “The homeowners love it.” **KBI**

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## bright idea

Mix painted and natural wood finishes for a built-over-time feel that looks fresh.

**OPPOSITE TOP:** Table-like legs, an open shelf, and a white marble countertop reduce the visual weight of the oversize island.

**OPPOSITE, BOTTOM LEFT:** The banquette seats lift to reveal storage below.

**OPPOSITE MIDDLE:** Located near the fridge, the small prep sink is ideal for washing vegetables.

**OPPOSITE, BOTTOM RIGHT:** The hutch harbors a pair of undercounter refrigerator drawers.

**THIS PHOTO:** Furniture styling gives this cabinet the charm of an antique freestanding hutch.







## STORAGE SOLUTIONS

**HIGH-REACHING RACK**, *opposite*: Glass jars of beans, rice, and other dry ingredients line open shelves on this vertical rack, providing functional wall decor.

**PRETTY OPEN SHELVING**, *above*: Backing open shelving with beaded board adds interest; so does limiting contents to attractive dishware.

**SECRET DRAWERS**, *above right*: A trio of drawers sit flush under the island's countertop. Their lack of hardware creates a barely-there look.

**HIDDEN MICROWAVE**, *right*: Placing the microwave inside the pantry cabinet contributes to this kitchen's clean look without sacrificing convenience.

