



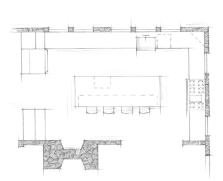
AS AN INTERIOR DESIGNER, Kristina

Crestin says, it isn't often that she comes across a project where the homeowner is ready to throw everything away. In this case, however, her client was adamant: Her old kitchen had to go. "She disliked the space from the very start. She'd been living in this house with her family for years, and she'd always felt the kitchen didn't belong."

One thing her client wanted was more light, Crestin says, and she hoped for a bigger island. Beyond that, "she wasn't sure where she was heading—she didn't really have a clear design direction." Eventually, working together, they settled on an overarching theme. "She decided she wanted it clean-traditional-to ride that line of having a new kitchen, but also having one that somehow had some age."

With that in mind, Crestin says, creativity became paramount. To resolve the issues around natural light, she convinced her client that upper cabinets were unnecessary and instead put a bank of windows above the countertop on the sink wall. Two more new windows flank the range, and a new hood, custommade of copper, helps fill the volume above it. "The room has these beautiful vaulted ceilings," Crestin says, "and we needed something that would not only fit the space, but also provide

.the plan



Wide walkways ease traffic flow in this U-shape kitchen. Deep drawers in base cabinetry and supplemental storage in the island allowed the design team to forgo traditional upper cabinets in favor of multiple doublehung windows for unimpeded views and abundant light.





TOP: The sink features a bridge faucet with a dark bronze finish. The leathered quartzite countertop "looks like marble but is more practical," says interior designer Kristina Crestin. ABOVE: Cabinetry, including the island, was hand-painted in a color Crestin describes as "graygreen quarry rock." Drawer pulls are brushed antique brass. OPPOSITE: The kitchen blends rustic and modern influences with quartzite countertops, an apron-front sink, reclaimed beams and shelving, and high-end stainless-steel appliances.









OPPOSITE: Wide pathways, plenty of light, and views of a marsh outside make this new kitchen a favorite gathering spot. A custommade, oxidized-copper hood stands out over the range. FAR LEFT: Reclaimed-wood shelves in the corner above the sink provide a place for the homeowner to display pitchers and plates. LEFT: Two chandelier-style pendants over the island help fill the volume beneath the high vaulted ceiling. Like the sconces a few feet away, they include paper shades and an antique bronze finish.

a visually appealing focal point." The range hood is the new kitchen's crowning glory. "It's this clean and simple form with a bronze-toned patina—something you'd never find out of a box," Crestin says.

Other features continue the room's modern-meets-rustic theme: Three large reclaimed beams, for instance, span the ceiling, while cables running in the opposite direction hold miniature LED fixtures. The perimeter cabinets and large island both painted the same gray-green hue—are topped with cloudcolor quartzite slabs. Crestin and her client had the countertops leathered after the installation to add a bit of texture and lightness to the surface. Elsewhere, the contemporary finishes are similarly farmhouse-inspired, from the quartzite floor that resembles slate to the cabinets' brushed-brass drawer pulls.

The end result is a perfect blend of new and old. "We found that happy medium," Crestin says. "It's a traditional kitchen made for work—it's functional and flows really well. But it also manages to be kind of different, and that's exactly what we wanted to achieve."

Resources begin on page 108.

DESIGNER INSIGHTS: BALANCING ACT

Most kitchen projects are an exercise in give and take. Designer Kristina Crestin shares tips for finding the right balance.

- Budget: Spend big where it really matters, on fixtures and materials that can't be easily replaced, such as cabinetry and flooring. But even then, there are ways to keep costs in check. In this project, Crestin mixed cheaper semicustom and expensive custom cabinetry "so we could hit a range of budget points," she says.
- Design: Don't go overboard with your design and creativity. Instead, look for "moments" where you can add a splash of texture or bring out a certain theme.
- Expectations: Start with a plan, but be flexible and ready to adapt as you go. Here, Crestin says, they had to make the island a bit shorter than they wanted. "We couldn't find a quartzite slab that was long enough to avoid having a seam."