



A new kitchen takes cues from the past with white cabinets that recall the bungalow era, the 1920s, and classic design.



OPPOSITE: Owner Barbee Lyon is attached to the woodstove that came with the house. Floorcloths enhance the old fir floors. **ABOVE:** The nook's bench ends reiterate the curve of an original seat in the entry. Valuable Art Nouveau wall sconces were found languishing in a box in the house's maid's quarters. **TOP RIGHT:** The diamond motif in leaded-glass windows has been repeated in an etched panel in the swinging door (above).

ATORNEY BARBEE LYON already owned this 1908 house in Portland, Oregon, when he married social worker Joan Kruse in 1992. Joan loved its high ceilings and original details . . . but campaigned to redo the kitchen, which Barbee had remodeled years before. So the couple hired a kitchen designer. They spent 16 hours just choosing countertop materials; Joan hated the samples. A

call to Portland's Architectural Heritage Center put her in touch with restoration consultant Karla Pearlstein. Weeks later, Joan asked Karla to review the kitchen designer's final plans.

"It was a Sunday," Karla recalls. "The place was filled with helpers packing up the kitchen, while contractor Keith Davis's demolition crew went to work. It was a crazy moment." Especially when Karla told Joan that



the company

RESTORATION CONSULTANT Karla Pearlstein, Restoring History LLC, Portland, OR: (503) 452-7772, restoringhistory.com
 DESIGNER Matthew Roman, Roman Design LLC, Portland, OR: (503) 998-6095, romandesign@earthlink.net
 CONTRACTOR Keith Davis Construction, Portland, OR: (503) 329-9212, keithdavisconstruction.com
 CABINETMAKER, STONE, WINDOW REPAIR, see p. 66

sources

COPPER SINK/FAUCETS Portland Vintage Plumbing: (971) 404-8149, portlandvintageplumbing.com
 LIGHTING Dave Vaughn Lighting: (503) 574-2825
 SUBWAY TILE Daltile: daltile.com
 REFRIGERATOR Liebherr Integrated Refrigerator from Eurostoves, Inc.: liebherr-refrigeration.com
 FLOOR CLOTHS GraceWood Design (Portland): (503) 922-0386, gracewooddesign.com
 ETCHED GLASS Moon Shadow Etchers: (503) 668-6154, moonshadowetchers.com
 WINDOW SHADES The Handwerk Shade Shop: (503) 659-0914, thehandwerkshop.com
 APPLIANCES, see p. 66

Kitchen & Pantry

HISTORIC YET MODERN

BY DONNA PIZZI | PHOTOGRAPHS BY PHILIP CLAYTON-THOMPSON



LEFT: Original windows were refurbished. Countertops in the kitchen are black granite with a honed finish. Cabinets are based on original cabinets in the master bedroom. Portland Vintage Plumbing married different faucets and necks to create a unique, historical installation. **ABOVE:** Joan suggested under-counter wine storage to keep clutter at bay. Refrigeration drawers in the pantry are for use by housemates and guests.

the plans were not particularly historical.

Joan says, "When I told Barbee I didn't want to proceed with the plan, he didn't speak to me for three days." Karla brought in designer Matthew Roman, and a new plan coalesced at warp speed.

Barbee wanted to maintain an eating nook with a sofa-width bench. In a compromise, it's where the original butler's pantry would have been, and the remodeled kitchen leans more toward 1920 than 1908. Barbee had turned the screened porch into a pantry. Now the space is more versatile, with storage and a sink, along with refrigerator drawers for guests.

"I share everything but my refrigerator!" says Joan, who uses the large, integrated one in the main kitchen. Other compromises became assets: Varnished floor cloths cover expanses of the old fir floors, adding warmth while hiding blemishes. And Matthew Roman suggested that marble left from another job be used for the pantry's sink surround, adding history-minded elegance on a budget. "



ABOVE: The Liebherr refrigerator with freezer below is camouflaged as a cupboard with drawers underneath.



ABOVE: The 1981 kitchen was showing wear, especially on tile countertops. **FAK LEFT:** Two views of the pantry show ribbon mahogany countertops, probably close to what was originally in the house. Note the combination gas/electric fixture (now all electric), consistent with the dual lighting originally in the 1908 house. **RIGHT:** The Arts & Crafts house is now listed on the National Register.

before & after

Years before he met Joan, Barbee Lyon had purchased this house and found the kitchen in a sad state. In 1981, with servants' quarters and kitchen open to use by visiting professionals, Lyon installed a no-frills kitchen designed for multiple users. By the time Barbee married Joan Kruse, the kitchen was showing wear—and Joan felt the room was not in keeping with the rest of the historic house. "As she planned another remodeling, "I called [Portland's] Architectural Heritage Center to ask if 1906 subway tile was matte or glossy," says Joan. "They gave me Karla Pearlstein's phone number." Karla, a restoration consultant, shared her photographs of historic kitchens, and mapped out where the butler's pantry probably once had been. In fact, once demolition was done, the crew found archaeological evidence, like the old plumbing for the butler's sink, that proved Karla was right about the original layout. "Back in 1981, the screened porch had become a pantry. It's now a more elegant and functional space.

