



# Look twice

Remodeling this kitchen has maximized the space and transformed the aesthetics – it is now more in keeping with the character of the 1920s home

**It often takes the eye of a designer to** see the potential of a space, especially when it's a kitchen that hasn't changed for many years.

This project is a case in point. Although the owners wanted to update the original kitchen, they were reasonably happy with its layout. Architect Linda Brettler could see a better alternative, however.

"The existing kitchen had a U-shaped work area with a peninsula that effectively cut the kitchen in half. It felt chopped up and confined, and the peninsula blocked

***Facing page:*** Light, bright and cheerful – this kitchen has been completely transformed by architect Linda Brettler. The original kitchen had a peninsula jutting into the space, blocking the flow. In the new layout, an island allows for circulation down either side, and ensures the view through to the outdoors can still be glimpsed from the dining room. The remodeling project included new French doors with side lights.

***Above:*** An extra-large farmhouse sink is positioned beneath the window. The perimeter countertops are a dark-colored, durable quartz.





**Above:** To create a point of difference, a rich teal blue color was chosen for the island. Chamfered edges and legs enhance the furniture look. The quartz countertop on the island features embedded crystals that make the surface glow by day and night. Overhead display cabinets are enlivened by an acid yellow on the rear walls.

**Above right:** The display cabinets are also characterized by the use of rolled glass, which creates a slightly rippled effect, reminiscent of old glass windows. The designer ensured there are no visible peg holes for shelving.



introduce a little more character through the detailing. Cabinets on the exterior wall have furniture-style feet with small arches. And the island, with its chamfered edges and legs like mini columns, also resembles a piece of furniture.”

This effect is reinforced by the choice of a rich teal-blue paint finish to contrast the white on the perimeter cabinets.

“The island is more highly lacquered for added durability and to create another point of difference,” says Brettler. “And we chose a lighter quartz countertop with

small embedded crystals that provide luminosity – the whole kitchen glows.”

Color also appears on the rear walls in the overhead display cabinets.

“The acid yellow has a bit of an edge to it that feels crisper and more modern than many other yellows,” says Brettler. “We didn’t extend the crown moulding all the way around the walls – this also helps to keep the look fresh.”

Hexagonal Calacatta mosaics are another unexpected, fun element in a kitchen that doesn’t take itself too seriously.

**Architect:** Linda Brettler AIA, Linda Brettler Architect (Los Angeles)

**Builder:** Metropolis Construction

**Cabinet company:** Woodworking LA

**Cabinets:** Painted wood

**Hardware:** Rejuvenation and Restoration Hardware

**Countertops:** Quartz

**Backsplash:** Hollywood mosaic in Calacatta marble from Walker Zanger

**Sink:** Rohl single-bowl apron sink

**Faucets:** Rohl bridge in polished chrome

**Lighting:** Median pendants from Sundance Catalog

**Flooring:** xxxxxx

**Oven:** Bluestar

**Ventilation:** xxxxxx

**Dishwasher and refrigeration:** KitchenAid

**Bar stools:** Baba in Canaletto Walnut from Design Within Reach

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