

T KITCHEN

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Light touch

Traditional detailing applied with a light hand allows this new kitchen to sit comfortably in an old house

A slavish adherence to the style of an old home isn't the only way to create a new kitchen that feels like part of the fabric of the house.

The kitchen of this 120-year-old home needed updating after being remodeled in the 1970s. The home was traditional in style, and the owners wanted a new kitchen that felt as if it belonged to this era, unlike their existing kitchen.

Architect John Tittmann set the scene with new coffered ceilings, paneled walls above the range and refrigerator, and paneled wood cabinetry.

"However, to keep the space from looking too ornate, we simplified the overall form of the kitchen by simplifying the woodwork. The cabinetry is traditional, but its detailing is understated," he says.

The coffered ceiling, walls

and cabinetry in the kitchen are painted in several shades of white. Further variations of white are used on the La Cornue range and hood, the Carrara marble island countertop and the tiled backsplash.

"These subtle differences create interest in the various materials, but in a restrained way. They also provide a neutral backdrop for the owners' collection of brightly colored

paintings in the adjacent family living area," says Tittmann.

Three French ceramic rise-and-fall light fixtures, complete with weights and antique brass, make a focal point of the island with its imposing slab of Carrara marble. More ceramic pendants draw attention to the zinc sink countertop.

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Architect: John Tittmann AIA, Mieke Stethem, Albert, Righter & Tittmann Architects (Boston, MA)
Cabinetry: Painted wood
Countertops: Zinc, Carrara marble
Floor: Clay Seneca tiles
Lighting: Hector Finch French ceramic
Backsplash: Dover white tiles from Tile Showcase
Sink: Kohler Deerfield
Faucets: Grohe Talia Chrome
Cooktop: La Cornue Le Grand Castel
Ventilation: La Cornue Villa hood
Refrigeration: Sub-Zero

Above left: The Carrara marble countertop establishes the island as an independent piece of furniture, when compared to the utility of the zinc used for the tops of counters on the perimeter.

Above: Ceramic floor tiles in a terracotta color, typical of kitchens at the turn of last century, add warmth to the predominantly white kitchen.

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