

DES MOINES

April 2011

HOMESTYLE

Small kitchens
with big space!

Porch and patio
ideas for spring



*Pattern
panache*

Mix it up for a little **extra design punch**



Handy, hardworking extras, such as a main sink and a prep sink, ensure that the slim kitchen stays productive and pretty.

The Fletchers eliminated a wall between their narrow kitchen and a breakfast nook, opening the spaces to each other and gaining an eat-in spot with a banquette.

Classic update

Unlike antiques that get better with age, kitchens mostly do not. When Jonathan and Amanda Fletcher bought their classic Des Moines Tudor, they discovered that its kitchen had, unfortunately, been left untouched for decades, and was unworkable for a busy, young family. When the Fletchers embarked on the room's remodel, they had several goals and restrictions. There would be no addition to the narrow space, and the room would have to function for everything from meals with little kids to family dinners and larger parties. The result "is my favorite room in the whole house," says Amanda Fletcher.

Layout: The original kitchen was separated from an adjacent breakfast room; the Fletchers removed the wall and joined the two so they'd have a larger space, adding a window seat that serves as a casual eating nook. Even still, the room isn't overly large, but long and leggy. To direct traffic more efficiently, the couple closed off a door and worked with Gilcrest Jewett to add a narrow island in the middle. "It's really appropriate to the scale and flavor of the house," says Amanda Reynal, an interior designer who worked with the couple. "A grandiose, overly scaled kitchen would have been inappropriate."

Cabinets: Storage stretches to the ceiling, but to prevent the abundance of cabinets from feeling too overwhelming, the Fletchers chose white. It makes the slim room feel bright and airy, and those surfaces also clean up easily. On the upper cabinets, glass doors – which mimic windows – reflect light and allow the family to display china and glassware.

Balance: Chocolate brown granite countertops ground the space, offering an elegant contrast to the room's white – and hide crumbs and spills.

Color: Blue is Amanda Fletcher's favorite color; she has a collection of china in blue and white, and that served as the jumping off point for showcasing the hue in all its shades. On the banquette and chairs, indoor/outdoor fabric in a lighter blue boasts a high kid-friendly quotient.

CONTINUED >>

Period-appropriate light fixtures brighten and lighten the space.





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The kitchen is the hub of this home, and a small desk area means that practical housework—bill paying, letter writing—can be done while people are snacking, eating or relaxing.

A more navy tone on the walls keeps the room intimate without feeling too heavy. "It really makes the white cabinetry pop and feel even fresher," says Amanda Reynal.

Storage: Even though she was corralled by the existing footprint, Amanda Fletcher vowed to steal space in the kitchen whenever she could. That meant a 4-inch-deep cabinet on the back side of the island to stash lunch bags and sippy cups, and extra storage cabinets under the banquette. "Every centimeter is valuable," says Fletcher.

Extras: The finishing touches make all the difference in creating a small space that embraces gracefulness and beauty. Take the chandelier, for example: It's new but fits right in with the home's turn-of-the-century style. A little desk with plugs and outlets allows Amanda Fletcher to pay bills and check email while her kids are eating, and even the dog has her own space, complete with water and food bowls, that's hidden cleverly under the island. ▲

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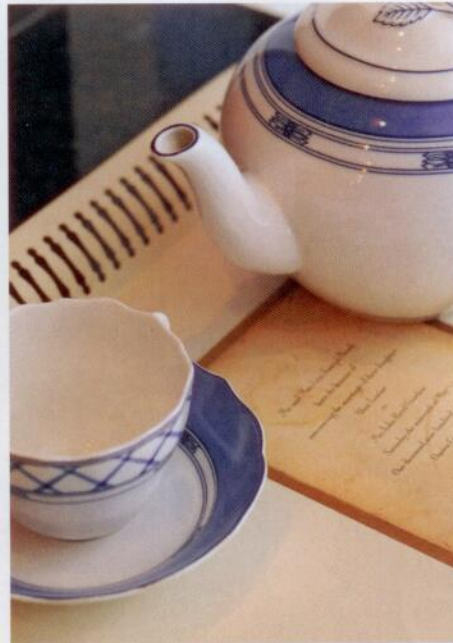
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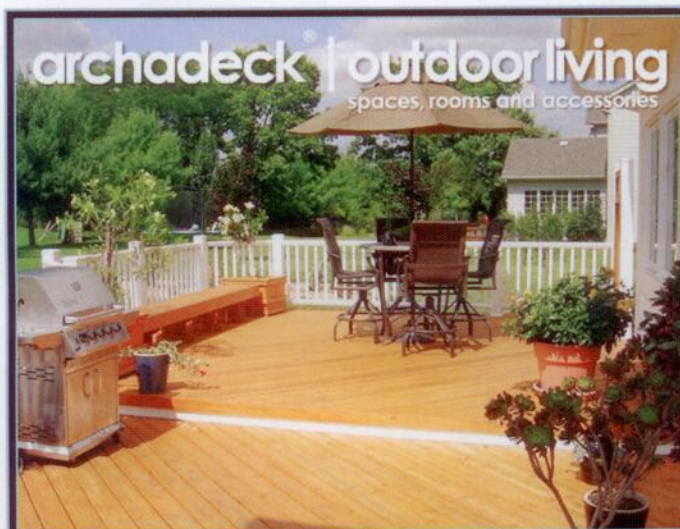
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The result 'is my favorite room'



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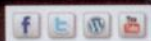


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