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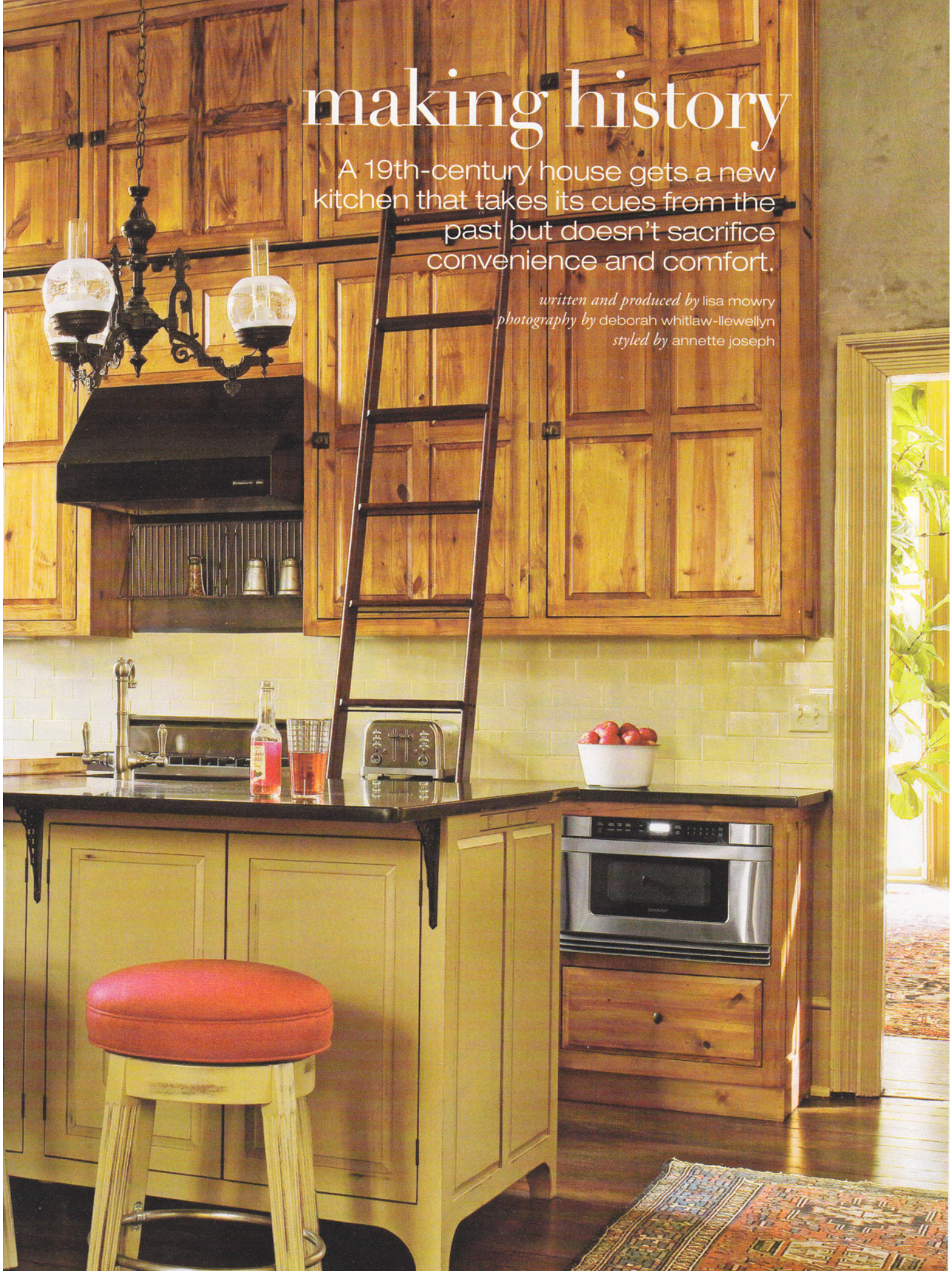
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making history

A 19th-century house gets a new kitchen that takes its cues from the past but doesn't sacrifice convenience and comfort.

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before

THIS PHOTO: To keep the period feeling of the kitchen, designer Beverly Baribault had vintage-look cabinets made from reclaimed pine. Taking the cabinets to the ceiling hides the stove exhaust pipe. More importantly, "the height adds so much visual interest, particularly with the ladder," Baribault says. "The house has an English feeling to it, and the ladder ties into that."



Built in 1841, this rambling Victorian-English cottage survived General William Tecumseh Sherman's burning of many antebellum homes in Georgia and South Carolina during the Civil War. When Connie and Donald Evans bought the Cartersville, Georgia, home in 1971, there had been just three previous owners. In the nearly four decades they've owned it, the Evanses have racked up a dozen or so renovation projects, the most recent being a makeover of the kitchen and adjacent sitting room.

"The kitchen had a '70s look to it, with linoleum on the walls and old cabinets," Connie says. "It was time for a change." She called on interior designer Beverly Baribault, who loved the historic roots of the house but also saw the need for modern conveniences and integrated rooms. Their starting point was an antique pine hutch in

the sitting room—it had once graced the local courthouse. Connie and Baribault loved its wood patina and weathered hardware. They decided it should be the model for new kitchen cabinets. Baribault's design called for cabinetry that went all the way up to the ceiling, to hide the exhaust pipe and to reflect the scale of the 12-foot-high ceilings.

She found a local cabinetry company that could imitate the look of the antique hutch with reclaimed pine. Then, to get just the right look for the hardware, Baribault took new knobs and handles to an Atlanta silversmith, who removed the existing finish and applied a more rustic one.

All the choices for materials were evaluated with the same single question: Is it appropriate for an old house? "Everything we picked, even though it was new, had to look old," Connie says. Baribault suggested a zinc sink

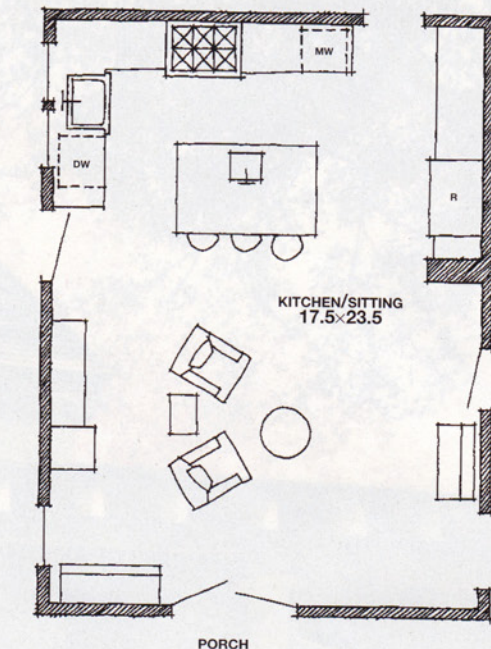
OPPOSITE: Once a bedroom, then a breakfast area, the sitting room is now a favorite place for both family members and guests to gather. French doors open to the back porch. Baribault connected the furniture pieces visually by covering three old wing chairs in khaki, then incorporating red as an accent color on an ottoman and throw pillows. The pine hutch in the corner was the inspiration for kitchen cabinets. **ABOVE LEFT:** Baribault moved the refrigerator to the side wall from its awkward position next to the stove. She then commissioned cabinets around it for storage and a soft contrast to the metal. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Honed-granite countertops are more durable than soapstone but have a similar appearance. A zinc sink from New England adds to the vintage look.

voice of experience

Cabinet Pick

Interior designer Beverly Baribault loves the patina of old wood for kitchen cabinets in historical houses. "There's no comparing 100-year-old pine with new pine," she says. Baribault suggests using a cabinetry company with experience in old woods and finding out where the wood comes from. She says "from a factory" isn't enough information. Ceiling beams, she says, are preferable to floorboards because the latter might have oils and nails that can be difficult to remove. Ask for a wood sample to make sure the patina is right. When it comes to cost, expect to pay double for reclaimed versus new.

➔ Find more kitchen cabinet ideas at RemodelingCenter.com/renstyle



LEFT: A painted custom cabinet serves as a visual transition between the sitting room and kitchen. The khaki color matches the island.

RENOVATION TIMELINE

Homeowner Connie Evans refers to the remodeling process of this Georgia house as "organic" because it happened naturally over the years to suit changing styles, family needs, and budgets. Connie, a clinical social worker, and her husband, Donald, a family practitioner, raised three children in the house.

1970s: They painted the house and added heat and air-conditioning when they first moved in, in 1971. In the mid '70s they remodeled the kitchen. Several years later they knocked out a wall between the kitchen and a bedroom, turning the bedroom into a breakfast room (now the sitting room). They later added a porch on an existing patio.

1980s: They walled in the porch to make a family room, leaving the exposed beams. They later put in French doors to a patio off the kitchen and added the arbor.

2004: Atlanta architectural designer William Baker redesigned the exterior, and landscape firm Waters & Co. overhauled the front and side yards. The couple also knocked off a small bedroom, expanded the master bedroom and bath upstairs, and added a large guest bedroom, bath, and patio downstairs.

2008: With the help of designer Beverly Baribault, they renovated their kitchen and adjacent sitting room.



because it would weather well, and honed-granite countertops to provide a muted look for the country elegance they sought.

Some of the material choices just presented themselves. When old linoleum on the wall was removed, for example, the mottled gray plaster underneath had a textured look that Baribault thought would fit right in, so they worked it into the design.

Baribault also changed space allocation. "When I first walked in, the kitchen and what was then a breakfast area were two defined rooms, but I wanted them to function as one big room," she says. The designer suggested Connie and Donald replace a table and chairs with three comfortable wing chairs, creating a destination for reading and visiting. The idea worked because they could shift the eating area to the island with stools.

To add a visual transition between the two rooms, Baribault designed a painted cabinet that breaks up the abundance of natural wood and adds variety to the heights of the cabinets and hutch. The piece also serves as a broom closet and pantry.

Connie's warm decorating style fit nicely into the new architectural configuration. "I love khaki and red," she

says. "And those colors go so well with Oriental rugs." Her fondness for khaki is so well-known at the local paint store that Baribault was able to match a paint color for the island by asking for "Connie's color," a custom mix found throughout her house.

Modern paintings in the sitting room contrast with the old elements. "I have older oil paintings in places like the living room, but I like abstract art in rooms with more energy," Connie says.

A similar mix of old and new continues on the back porch, a gracious circular addition the Evanses installed in the '70s. Its Victorian style was inspired by an old porch removed from the front of the house years earlier. Baribault helped freshen up the wicker furniture by designing new pillows that echo the sitting room's colors.

Connie loves that the changes—while significant—aren't so jarring that visitors immediately notice them. "I have people come in the kitchen," she says, "and it takes them a few minutes before they say something like 'Did you do something different in here?' We wanted a kitchen that seemed like it had been there all along." ■

For more information, see Resources on page 118.

OPPOSITE: The wraparound porch is a favorite morning and evening relaxation place for Connie and Donald Evans. **ABOVE:** Connie believes that a circular porch is more visually pleasing than a rectangular one. "It doesn't have a cutoff point, so the flow continues around and it creates a bit of mystery," she says. "You wonder what's around the corner."