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The Kitchen Issue

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Restaurant designer Bill Johnson invites us inside his kitchen.



ON THE COVER Dina and Andrew Duncan's sleek kitchen breaks the traditional mold in Alpharetta (page 57). Cover and above photo by Jeff Herr.



Cartersville Cottage

AFTER LIVING IN A NEWISH WEST COBB HOUSE FOR SEVERAL YEARS, BEVERLY AND TOM Baribault were thrilled to move into a character-rich 1890s cottage in historic Cartersville. The kitchen, however, with its pickled cabinets and dated wallpaper, looked circa 1990.

The couple longed for a kitchen with modern conveniences but the soul of an older house. "I knew we didn't want to replicate a kitchen from the 1890s," Beverly says, "yet I wanted some reference to the past." The twenties and thirties seemed like good stylistic starts, and since the house's original owner was English, they kept in mind a British country house as inspiration.

Architect Randy Zaic enlarged the space by about 200 square feet and eliminated some odd angles. After researching vintage materials, Beverly, herself a designer, chose subway tiles as a backsplash, cabinets that go all the way to the ceiling, nickel hardware, a farmhouse sink and a slate floor, as well as vintage-looking lighting. The copper countertops are historically correct, she points out, and the island's concrete surface was stained for a classic stone look.

The room's showstopper is a floor-to-ceiling wall of storage, with an oversized chalkboard. A rolling library ladder allows daughter Emily to write messages or Beverly to reach items stored on top.—L.M. See Resources



NOSTALGIC CHARM Beverly and her daughter Emily have plenty of room for food prep in the deep farmhouse sink. Stained concrete counters look like honed granite. Left, a copper surface and commercial range add restaurant-quality flair. Subway tiles have dark grout for an antique look.

Great Ideas

(The Baribaults' Kitchen)

CHALK IT UP The blackboard keeps the Baribault family organized and offers a place for Emily to doodle while hanging out in the kitchen. Mounted on a door, it opens to reveal a clever storage area for keys, tools and office supplies.

HANG-UPS Reclaimed pine fills a corner of the room to provide a mudroom-type area. "We wanted to create a place where family and friends know they can put their stuff when they come visit," says Beverly.

SKIRT The area under the sink was given a curtained cover-up as a nod to old-fashioned kitchens and a way to warm up all the hard textures.

GRAND SCHEME Scale is always important, notes Beverly. The island is 12 feet long, which feels just right in the large kitchen, with its 11-foot ceilings and 8-foot-tall back door.

HIGH-TECH TOUCH Beverly loves her three dishwasher drawers (two flanking the island sink, and another to the left of the back sink), raised to make clean-up easier on backs. She can run just one drawer for small family meals but has the other two available for parties.

