

WINTER 2023

AT HOME WITH ELM

Kitchen Remodeling, Basement Renovations, Additions & More



Kitchen Upgrade: The Neighborhood Hangout

Before we met our clients on Edgemont, they had the smallest kitchen on the street with barely enough space for their family.

The problem was that their kitchen was the neighborhood hang-out spot. The space was also outdated, didn't have a lot of lighting, no room for the kids to do their homework, and just needed to be refreshed.

After years of dreaming and a lot of planning, our clients gave us a call, and we got to work.

The Design Process

The first time we met with our clients, they already had an excellent idea of what they wanted their new kitchen to look like and what their tastes were, which made the design portion of the project easy.

However, getting the details exactly as they wanted was challenging since we wanted everything to be just as they imagined.

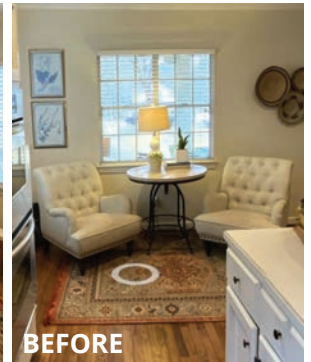
A Style All Their Own

Our clients did not want their space to look like a "brand new" kitchen and had a very distinct style of their own. To start, we opened the front wall to create more space for people to gather. This also gave our clients plenty of storage space for their kitchenware.

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BEFORE



BEFORE



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Renovate a Historic Home while preserving its charm

Remodeling a historic home is a delicate balancing act. People love old homes because of their unique architectural details and the sense of history, but they often require updates to make them comfortable and functional for modern living.

If you have a historic home, here are some tips to help you maintain that timeless charm while making sure it meets modern standards.

Research your home

Before making any changes, it's essential to research the history of your home. Understand its architectural style, the period it was built in, and any significant historical features. This knowledge will help you make informed decisions about which elements to preserve and which to update.

Preserve the details

With historic homes, it's all in the details. Original details like crown molding, wainscoting, pocket doors, hardwood floors, and built-ins are what make the home special. Whenever possible, restore or repair these features rather than replacing them. The old saying, "They don't make it like they used to," is true.



Choose appropriate materials

When making updates or repairs, choose materials that are historically accurate for your home's era. For example, if you have a Victorian-era home, opt for period-appropriate wallpaper, paint colors, and fixtures. This attention to detail will help maintain the home's authenticity.



Add energy-efficient updates

Old homes often have outdated, inefficient, or out-of-code systems for electricity, heating and cooling, and plumbing, as well as windows and insulation. Work with your contractor to choose products and systems that make your home more comfortable and efficient while preserving its historic look.

Be patient and budget wisely

Renovating a historic home is often a time-consuming and costly endeavor. It's essential to be patient and budget wisely. Unexpected surprises can arise during the renovation process, so having a contingency fund is essential. Don't rush the project; take the time to ensure that every detail is addressed correctly.

Respect the neighborhood

Historic homes are often in historic neighborhoods. Much of their charm lies in the fact that there are multiple historic homes in close proximity. Be respectful of the historical context and the impact your renovation may have on the neighborhood's character. Depending on your neighborhood, there may even be restrictions on what you can do to the home.

Preserving the charm of a historic home while bringing it up to modern standards requires a careful and thoughtful approach. If you have an old home and aren't sure where to start, contact us and we'll help you plan your project.



Finishing Touches for a Historic Looking Home

If you want a historic look in your home – even if it's not very old – it's the finishing touches that truly make the difference. These subtle elements can transport you back in time and infuse your space with a sense of history and character. Here are some home design finishing touches that provide a historic look:

Plumbing Fixtures and Faucets

Nothing quite beats the look of a historic kitchen sink or bathtub. Thankfully, many manufacturers offer traditional styles that recapture the look of old, while still providing the performance and efficiency a modern home needs.



Crown Molding

This is a classic architectural detail that can instantly add a touch of elegance and history to any room. Choose a style that matches the era you're trying to replicate, whether it's Georgian, Victorian, or Colonial, and consider painting it in a period-appropriate color.



Molding and Trim Details

Pay attention to the trim around doors, windows, and baseboards. Consider adding rosettes, plinth blocks, and other decorative trim elements to enhance the historic charm.

Wainscoting

This is a type of paneling that covers the lower part of a wall and is commonly found in historic homes. It not only adds visual interest but also protects your walls. Beadboard and raised panel wainscoting are popular choices for a timeless look.

Vintage Hardware

Swapping out modern hardware for vintage-inspired knobs, pulls, and handles on cabinets and doors can instantly give your home a historic feel. Look for pieces with ornate details and antique finishes.

There are many other products and details available to help you get the historic look you want. Contact us to get started!

Combine Historic Design with Modern Function

Whether you have a historic home, or just like the classical look, there are many modern products that combine a vintage style with 21st-century functionality.

Traditional Faucets with Touchless Technology

Faucets with traditional or vintage-inspired designs can now feature touchless technology for hands-free operation.



Period-Style LED Lighting Fixtures

Traditional-look lighting fixtures like chandeliers, sconces, and pendant lights can be fitted with LED bulbs, providing energy efficiency, extended lifespan, and dimmable features while preserving their vintage charm.



"Vintage" Kitchen Appliances

Modern appliances with vintage aesthetics offer the best of both worlds. These appliances resemble retro classics but boast advanced features like smart technology, energy efficiency, and precise controls.

Vintage-Looking Hardware with Modern Security

Door hardware, such as handles, knobs, and deadbolts, can feature classic designs while incorporating advanced security features like electronic keyless entry, smart locks, and remote monitoring.

By incorporating these products and design elements into your home remodeling project, you can strike a balance between traditional charm and modern functionality. This fusion of styles allows you to enjoy the best of both worlds in your updated home.

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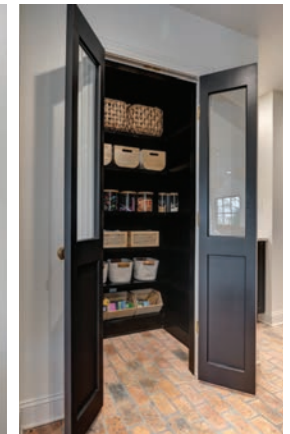
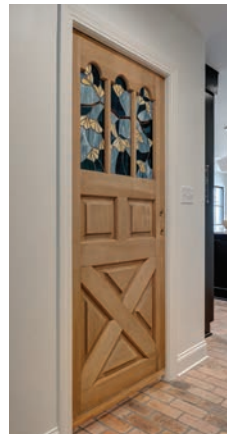
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Our clients chose brick flooring, which contrasts beautifully with the stark black cabinets. After some searching, we were able to find the perfect piece of white quartz for the countertops, which makes the space look clean and elegant. They also chose some open shelving which makes the kitchen appear more open and modern.

Special Details Made the Difference

One special detail we were able to include was a beautiful old door that the family had previously used. This door leads into a large pantry where our clients store their small appliances like the microwave and coffeemaker. It was a wish list item, and we worked hard to find the perfect spot for it.

We think this project turned out beautifully. We hope our clients love their new kitchen and host many memorable evenings there!



See More of This Project

Point your phone's camera at this QR code to see a link to our gallery

