newly traditional

TIME-HONORED DESIGN GIVES THIS NEW KITCHEN SOLID HISTORICAL FOOTING.

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The kitchen is central to this home's traditional layout. Crisp, classic white walls and cabinetry allow the warmth of the Douglas fir cabinets and Southern yellow pine floor to stand out.

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Turn-of-the-century homes—even modest ones—evoke charm, solidity, and romance, qualities that never go out of style but can be hard to come by in new builds. To get traditional features without the kitsch, you need a skilled designer "to recognize what's enough and where to stop," architect John W. Priestley III says.

Priestley designed this kitchen as part of a custom home built a few years ago near the Maine coast. With its shingled exterior and jerkinhead roof, the home has a vintage cottage feel. The homeowner wanted a kitchen with distinct areas for different functions, including cooking, dining, and socializing, and a large breakfast area. The architect was also asked to design around pieces of furniture the homeowner already had.

Design and product choices play a role in conjuring up an earlier time. The floor is reclaimed Southern yellow pine, which is close in grain pattern to the cabinets' Douglas fir. "It's a little less formal than hardwoods and has a certain association with a more historical kitchen," Priestley says. Carrara marble

OPPOSITE: Two kitchen work spaces enhance efficiency; this area is for dishwashing and cleanup. The farmhouse sink is positioned next to the dishwasher, which is right below the dish cabinet. **LEFT:** A light aqua ceramic subway tile backsplash with a crackle glaze adds subtle color and shimmer. **ABOVE:** The range sits as if in an inglenook—separate yet central. It evokes an earlier time when the hearth was the home's center. Sidewalls offer deep drawer storage.

bright idea

Top a dedicated baking zone with marble. Its cool surface is ideal for rolling out dough.

countertops are historically evocative, as are the vitreous china sink and furniturelike island. Subtler details help, too: the crown molding, the toe-kicks, the hearthlike recess for the range. On the cabinets, "we used thicker doors and face frames, all grommeted shelf pins," contractor Nate Holyoke says. "On the bigger glass doors, where the muntin lines up with the shelf is important."

The color palette is purposefully spare to "prevent chaos in terms of finishes," Priestley says. That allows the millwork, brackets, and trim to truly shine, creating a sense of substance and formality.

The homeowner wanted the cooking area to serve as a focal point. "It's certainly a throwback to an older-style kitchen, where the stove might have been a large wood-burning range and have this kind of treatment," Priestley says of the range, which is framed by winged walls and set under a grand inset hood.

Complete with separate work areas and thoughtful details—including a marble counter for rolling out pastries—the kitchen is everything the homeowner desired. "The intent in this kitchen is that it be used and lived in," Priestley says. "It's not precious like a museum piece." **KBI**

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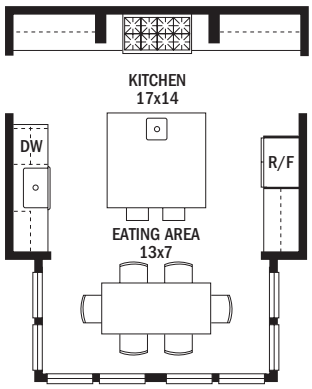

ABOVE: The refrigerator—conveniently located next to a food-prep zone—gets built-in treatment from custom cabinetry. **RIGHT:** The island holds a prep sink and creates a second work area. Clustered pendants made of glass canning jars provide pretty task lighting. Upper cabinets echo 19th-century coastal home windows. **OPPOSITE:** A window-lined breakfast nook offers waterfront views.