

*Fresh Ideas* for the Heart of the Home

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# A Fusion of Style

A love of contemporary style combined with a respect for tradition brings this historic home into the present without sacrificing any of its classic charm.

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When Julia and Brian Carr decided to downsize from a five-bedroom in the suburbs to a smaller house in downtown Richmond, Virginia's, historic district, the thing they didn't want to compromise on was the kitchen. Both love to cook for and entertain their large extended family, so a roomy modern kitchen was nonnegotiable.

Knocking out a wall between the original tiny galley kitchen and the little den behind it made the kitchen and the living area into one big space in the 1863 cottage. The large bay window in the former den also brought in lots of light and a great view of the English garden out back.

"I intended to make the whole house contemporary but learned that I needed to add some warmth and soften the contemporary with a few traditional touches," Julia says. The home's original pine floors and a reproduction printer's cabinet (the narrow drawers were originally meant for storing paper) provide that warmth and anchor the modern seating and industrial-style light fixtures firmly in the past.








(Above) Modern art and industrial design add splashes of color to the computer nook.



Color was also a challenge for the contemporary/traditional fusion. “There are so many white kitchens these days, but all white was a little stark for me,” Julia says. A few touches of color—a bold rug and a shiny red metal desk framed by colorful prints—liven up the space without making it feel busy.

Downsizing meant getting rid of a number of belongings, but again, kitchen gear and tableware

escaped the cuts. Thanks to the clever redesign, this kitchen offers plenty of storage while keeping an open feel. The big drawers in the bottom of the printer’s cabinet house pots and pans, while the glass-enclosed shelves above show off beautiful crockery and serving pieces.

This lovely kitchen is proof that contemporary and traditional, old and new can live happily together. 



# Style Inspirations

*Be inspired by our  
lookbook of kitchen  
ideas taken from  
real kitchens.*















**ISLAND** Adding an additional work surface is the main motivation for including an island in the kitchen. And whether it's a simple butcher block or a grand area with seating and storage it becomes an instant focal point.

