



Country fare

A mix of materials and attention to rich, warm tones contribute to the rustic air of this European kitchen

A kitchen has to satisfy the daily needs as well as the aesthetic preferences of those who will use it. A European-style country kitchen, for example, will likely combine practical surfaces with a warm, approachable atmosphere.

This remodel by interior designers Sally Wilson and John Kelsey took a gloomy kitchen-and-den combination and transformed it into a space ideally suited for both cooking and relaxing in.

"First we gutted the interior to make way for the upgrade," says Wilson. "Then

we introduced a complete architectural shell, articulating the ceiling with painted beams to help define the 27ft-long space."

The owners wanted a classic French kitchen and the eclectic, pulled-together nature of the cabinetry is a part of this.

"Habersham cabinetry framing the oven is a focal point and this is contrasted by Omega cabinets in a ginger stain and coffee glaze," says Kelsey. "Both have a furniture-like appeal. Similarly, the outer island has decorative turned legs and beadboard panels in lieu of cabinet fronts."



Above left: Brickwork, varied cabinetry and rich tones all give this kitchen an inviting, rustic appeal. Appliances are set on the inner side of the islands or integrated to preserve the rural look. Copper faucets and a farmhouse sink add to the charm.

Above: Interior architect and designer John Kelsey designed the fireplace mantel, flanking cabinetry and plate rack in this area to be in keeping with the kitchen's old-world sensibility.

Left: The two-tone tile backsplash was personalized to the owners' tastes.



Original plans for upper cabinetry were abandoned on the designers' advice, as the added bulk would have made the room seem cramped and claustrophobic.

While demolishing one of the walls, old brickwork was exposed.

"The owners liked the idea of brick but the original walls were dilapidated, so we introduced a veneer of new brick applied over the existing walls," says John Kelsey. "Once the bricks are set in place, mortar is applied to complete the look."

Kelsey also designed a banquette and

millwork surround to enclose the informal dining area at the other end of the room. A gas fireplace completes the cozy aesthetic.

"Material choices helped to create the ambiance: the combination of upholstery fabrics, the classic toile backsplash – customized via drawings, then manufactured in England – as well as the stone-like appearance of the porcelain tile floors," says Sally Wilson.

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Interior architecture and kitchen design:

John Kelsey, BAGB, NARI, Wilson Kelsey Design (Salem, MA)

Interior decoration: Sally Wilson, ASID, Wilson Kelsey Design

General contractor: S Magnuson & Associates

Kitchen manufacturer: Omega and Habersham, supplied by Friend Lumber

Cabinetry: Omega in maple, with ginger stain and coffee glaze; Habersham painted hardwood in Noir Verde Studio and Livingston Green

Countertops: Kashmir Gold Dark granite, stone consultant Dawn Carroll

Sink: Bungalow sink by Native Trails in copper

Faucets: Evolution Collection in oil-rubbed bronze by Whitehaus Collection

Oven and cooktop: Dual fuel Viking

Ventilation: Viking

Refrigeration: SubZero

Microwave: Sharp

Dishwasher: Bosch integrated

Coffee maker: Miele

Backsplash: Wall tiles in custom design by Wilson Kelsey Design, tiles from Paris Ceramics

Tile flooring: Carriage House in Buckskin, by American Olean

Wallcoverings: Custom-mixed Benjamin Moore paint; Robinson thin-brick veneer in Train Station hue

Lighting: Antique chandeliers sourced by Sally Wilson, MR16 downlights by Lightolier

Blinds: Custom shutters by Wilson Kelsey Design

Furniture: Island stools by Dennis and Leen, finished in Highland Court fabric; dining table from The Sterling Collection; dining chairs by Minton Spidel, fabric by Shumacher and Sanderson; custom-designed banquette by Wilson Kelsey Design, fabric by Old World Weavers, fabricated by Heller Furniture

**Story by Charles Moxham
Photography by Sam Gray**

Above left: Plush cushion covers and ornate banquette material add to the rich aesthetic. Several found pieces contribute to the eclectic feel, including the toile lacquered metal tray, sourced by Sally Wilson. The dining chair seats are in faux leather for easy cleaning, while the backs are in a regal woven chenille stripe.

Above: The pantry answered the owners' need for ample storage and avoided the need for upper cabinets, which are not generally found in old French country kitchens. Pantry cabinets have a brass mesh front, backed with gathered fabric, much like the antique furniture they emulate.