

# True BLUE

See how this South Carolina kitchen is made over with modern amenities, traditional touches and standout color.

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**Peaceful Palette.** Blue tones anchor the kitchen design, while shades of white balance the depth of the blues, allowing all of the available light to shine throughout the room. Interior designer Cynthia Masters says that the polished nickel faucets and hardware add sparkle without pouring on additional color.



**1 Handsome Details.** Nailhead trim on the sapphire bar stools is a traditional touch that adds more glimmer to the space.

**2 Farmhouse Fresh.** Cynthia says, “I love the Waterstone high-rise faucet at the large sink and the delicious dimension of the crackled and beveled subway tile at the backsplash.”



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An awkward wall stood between the kitchen and breakfast area, creating a closed-in feeling. Counter space was scarce. And there weren't nearly enough cabinets to hold today's kitchen necessities. It was clear that this kitchen, dating from 1939, was dearly in need of a modern makeover. And Cynthia Masters was just the person to do it.

As the President and Lead Designer of her firm Panageries, Cynthia could envision the possibilities as soon as she viewed the kitchen, housed in a charming cottage in historic Greenville, South Carolina. Knowing that the kitchen layout didn't function well for today's living, Cynthia had the unwieldy wall torn down and the entire kitchen gutted.

Cynthia says, “Altering the layout allowed us to make the most of every inch. We were able to create a much more functional work triangle, while adding loads of additional cabinetry and counter space.”

### Modern Updates

The new layout served the homeowners' desire for a current-day kitchen with bells and whistles, and permitted plenty of space to let classic design elements shine.

During the four-month renovation, two farm sinks were added, along with floor-to-ceiling cabinetry that offers generous storage. “This type and amount of storage in a smaller, older home is a huge commodity,” Cynthia says.

Although it's a space that's faithful to its traditional roots, the kitchen takes a fresh, slightly unexpected turn in shades of blue, from the gray-blue cabinets to the sapphire bar stools. The homeowners favor blue, so the palette was built around watery hues. Whites bring balance to the kitchen, represented through the sinks, lighting and Luce Di Luna quartzite countertops.

### Vintage Details

The cabinets, swathed in what Cynthia calls “a cool, almost blue, charcoal gray,” feature inset shaker doors and drawers that perfectly capture vintage cottage style. The upper doors spotlight restoration glass, which



**Practical Design.** With stainless-steel Wolfe and Subzero appliances residing on one side of the kitchen, the raised bar and barstools sit across from the work area, which Cynthia says “makes it easy for cooks to maneuver when preparing meals, and family members or guests can watch and interact without being underfoot.”

Cynthia says, “keep the tall cabinets from becoming heavy.” She believes that these cabinets defy the belief that dark cabinetry overwhelms a small kitchen, saying, “Many times, clients are fearful of painting cabinetry a dark color, but this kitchen proves that, when done right, it doesn’t have to be oppressive.”

The lighting above the island adds bygone flair to the kitchen, exemplifying “old schoolhouse style” as Cynthia calls it. “We selected them for their vintage feel. The brushed nickel of the metal ties in with the stainless-steel appliances and the white glass blends with the white sinks, backsplash and trim.”

The homeowners enjoy hosting both large events and intimate gatherings in this space, a kitchen that effortlessly combines Southern traditionalism and contemporary comforts.

Cynthia grew up in South Carolina, and fondly remembers the “big, old farm sink” in her grandparents’ farmhouse, a look that she carried into the design of this kitchen.

She says, “The farm sinks have a vintage Southern flavor. Southern homes in general lean to a traditional sensibility, so that is reflected here for sure.”

*See Sources, Page 112.*



**1 Second Sink.** The not one, but two sinks in this kitchen permit the homeowners to entertain with ease. Cynthia notes, “Because of the apron, a farm sink adds a design element that can’t be achieved with an undermount sink. Today, there are many colors and materials to choose from and they are available in both single and double bowl configurations.”