



The bold blue cabinets in this Los Angeles kitchen make for an eye-catching focal point. "In certain lights, it looks more blue," Jessica says. "In shadow, it looks more teal." Underfoot, a Moroccan rug adds a spritz of Spanish flavoring.

Something Old, SOMETHING BLUE

This Los Angeles kitchen brings a modern twist to American farmhouse style.

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY SCOTT RICKELS

When it's time to repaint your kitchen cabinets, chances are, bright blue wouldn't be your first choice. But this farmhouse-style bungalow in Los Angeles, California, wouldn't be complete without its dazzling blue cabinets. The homeowners, who love expressive colors, hired interior decorator Jessica McClendon of Glamour Nest to design the kitchen. "Not many people paint with such a bright color," she says. "It adds a lot of personality." Plus, the bold color melds with the 1920s bungalow. "We wanted to work with the architecture while infusing the room with style," Jessica says.

INDUSTRIAL CHROME

The classic kitchen evokes farmhouse tradition with a modern twist. While elements like the kitchen sink and Shaker-style cabinets are distinct farmhouse features, chrome accessories introduce an element of contrast. For example, the classic subway tile takes on a newfangled look, not because of the dark grout, but because of the effect of the chrome against the backsplash. "The subway tile looks more modern because of the things we put around it," Jessica says. "Even with dark grout, the look is still classic and original, since subway tiles were originally placed on cement." The chrome appliances also lend an industrial air to the kitchen.



"The kitchen is a mixture of classic traditional with modern."



Tip
CONSIDER OUT-OF-THE-BOX DESIGNS, WHETHER THAT'S A BRIGHT CABINET COLOR, BOLD BACKSPLASH OR UNIQUE LAYOUT. AFTER ALL, IT'S YOUR HOME, AND YOU SHOULD LOVE THE ROOMS YOU'RE DESIGNING.

TRUSTWORTHY CAESARSTONE

The homeowners were considering renting out the house, so they needed the kitchen to be versatile as well as fashionable. Jessica gutted the room to make extra storage space—a must for the tiny home. She installed upper cabinets and moved the refrigerator back to create more counter space. When it came to choosing the surface, Jessica selected Caesarstone quartz counters. "Caesarstone is super functional," she says. "I love marble, but it's not easy to maintain. You can put hot things on Caesarstone, and you can cut on it. The owners don't have to worry about tenants messing it up."

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(above) Jessica gutted the kitchen to make room for the cabinets, creating an abundance of space above and below the countertop. "There was originally no upper cabinet storage space," Jessica says. Now, there's plenty of room for all the kitchen odds and ends, as well as sundry household items. (above, right) You can't go wrong with a well-loved antique. This gorgeous 1940s Gaffers & Sattler range stove is original to the home and continues to satisfy the homeowners' cooking needs. Alongside more modern additions, the appliance contributes a rustic warmth to the room.



SPLASHY STORAGE

In addition to providing storage, cabinets also help shape the room's aesthetic. Here are Jessica's three expert tips for picking your cabinets.

- 1. INVEST AND INDULGE.** When it comes to financing your kitchen, Jessica recommends prioritizing your cabinet budget. Save money on other areas, such as the backsplash. "Subway tiling is super inexpensive," Jessica says. Do the investing in your cabinets. That way, you can have them custom-designed to meet your needs.
- 2. PERFECT PANELS.** According to Jessica, you should choose your panel types to match the room's atmosphere. "For farmhouse kitchens, you can't go wrong with Shaker-style cabinets," she says. "They're classic, modern, traditional and simple." Jessica also recommends choosing real wood for the paneling. "Paint grade looks more rich and grounded, and you're able to change things up," says Jessica. (For more on Shaker style, see page 20.)
- 3. VISUAL VARIATION.** Jessica chose white for the upper cabinets, offsetting the brilliant blue below. She also opted to leave some cabinets open, further breaking up the room. "It was a functional choice," she says. "We wanted to break up the monotony of so many upper cabinets."