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Engaged Media Inc.



Country Kitchen *Revival*

A century-old Tennessee kitchen's original charm is restored with the help of salvaged materials.

BY KRISTIN DOWDING
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STYLING BY AMBER CAGLE

Cozy Kitchen. As a result of a major gut renovation, this kitchen uses brick original to the home as well as an antique replica for a fresh foundation made to look old. The vaulted ceiling is also original, but they added new nickel gap and rafters that help create a farmhouse vibe. "We wanted to keep it farmhouse with white cabinets and nickel gap," Amber says. The homeowner's friends from E35 Design helped pick out the rustic bar stools, which add an industrial accent to the space.



Fun for All. The breakfast nook is a space for the whole family to enjoy. “The homeowner felt like the kitchen was getting too fancy,” Amber says. “Since the refrigerator is panel faced, we did a magnetic chalkboard as something fun for the kids.” The table is from an antiques store, and the windows are new, but they are real wood mullions to match the rest of the windows original to the home. “We then trimmed out with typical farm-house style window trim,” Amber says.

Charming historic homes are coveted gems in the South, but many older homes aren’t up to modern-day living standards. This historic 1910 Folk Victorian home in Franklin, Tennessee, required a complete renovation to bring it back to its former glory. The homeowners called on Kevin Coffey, owner of C. Kevin Coffey Design, and Amber Cagle, owner of Black Dove Interiors, for help in restoring the property to give it a country-cottage farmhouse style.

Original Upgrade

The first major change made to the kitchen was its location, as the former space was too small for the homeowners’ needs. When they moved the kitchen to its current location, they had to tear down the brick fireplace in the middle of the room, but they were able to salvage the materials.

“We didn’t have enough of the brick to use in the whole kitchen, so we found an antique lot of brick from a salvage store to use as a replica for the walls and used the original brick for the arches,” Amber says. The brick also came in handy when covering up an eyesore—a large support beam that separated the kitchen and breakfast nook—and Amber was able to accomplish the task with the original brick archway.



The vaulted ceiling is original to the home’s structure, but some changes were made there, too. “We wanted to expose the A-frame,” Amber says. “The original ceiling had exposed rafters and planks, which we loved, but we had to be able to add roof insulation. So, we emulated the original look by putting in insulation and covering it with new rafters and new nickel-gap siding.” The flooring is also a remnant of its past self, with a slight upgrade. “We used a combination of the existing wood flooring with #2 common and select-grade red oak planks in varying widths,” Amber says. “The #2 common planks are cheap, but they look great and add texture with their knots.”

Country Charm

To create a farmhouse vibe in the kitchen, Amber used details to her advantage. Materials such as nickel gap on the ceiling, brick on the walls, beadboard cabinets and chicken wire all contribute to a cozy cottage feel. Even the functional pieces in the room, such as the pendant lights and range hood, include Southern elements.

“We found some old Navy lights at an antiques store and had them rewired,” Amber says. Their vintage appeal goes a long way in setting the tone of the space. Scalloped trim graces the range hood, window cornice and island apron for another charming detail that makes all the difference.



1 Delicate Gold. Amber purchased a French range from La Cornue and had a hood designed and made to match the style. “We had the hood designer add a scalloped trim to bring in a Southern element,” she says.

2 Great Heights. Since some of the cabinets are too high to reach on foot, Amber had a rail installed that holds a sliding ladder. “We had our cabinet guy stain it, and it allows the homeowners to reach the upper cabinets,” she says. If fully inset cabinets aren’t in your budget, Amber has a great tip: Have a cabinetmaker pull the face frames out so the doors look like they are inset.

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Fresh ideas and antique architecture come together to give this 1910 Tennessee living room a new look that suits its original style.

BY KRISTIN DOWDING
PHOTO BY NICK MCGINN
STYLING BY AMBER CAGLE

Something Old, Something New

With a complete remodel of a 100-year-old Franklin, Tennessee, home, it can be difficult to balance making the home functional and retaining its original charm. For interior designer Amber Cagle of Black Dove Interiors, it was a matter of combining new pieces with older materials to emulate some of the original style. “We cut an opening in the living-room wall and put in 100-year-old doors we found at Preservation Station,” she says. Vintage corbels help prop up the rustic beam they found for the mantel.

Other additions were simply made to look old. “We built bookshelves out of trim cabinetry and distressed them to look old,” Amber says. “We wanted it to look like we found them as antiques.” New handmade terra-cotta tile bordered in brass strips adds character to the fireplace and new shiplap walls offer a classic touch that pays homage to the original structure.

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