

# Get A Vintage-Kitchen Look

Ideas for traditional makeovers from around the Beaufort area

TEXT LAURA JACOBI

The role of the kitchen has evolved over the centuries. In older homes, such as the many historic homes in the Beaufort area, the kitchen was a very antiquated space, blocked off from the rest of the house. Today, area homeowners want their kitchen to mesh with the feel of their older home yet still reflect their lifestyles and be a place where the entire family can spend time cooking, dining, and living together.

Capturing the flavor of a vintage kitchen is easier than most might imagine. Whether



Photo by Gordon H. Schenck, Jr.



Photo by John McManus

Frederick & Frederick Architects renovated this Beaufort kitchen in 1996. The flush-inset cabinets, hand-rubbed paint finish, and the pot rack give this kitchen a traditional look.

Adding to the traditional style of this Hilton Head Island kitchen, renovated in 2005 by Frederick & Frederick Architects, are the flush-inset cabinets and glass shelves.

you want to restore the kitchen in your historic home to its traditional glory or build in your new home the type of kitchen your great-grandparents would have loved, creating that warm and inviting kitchen is all in the details.

When looking to renovate or revamp an existing kitchen, residential architect Jane Frederick of Frederick & Frederick Architects in Beaufort says homeowners first have to ask themselves, "How does the space function?" Plan out how you will use the space, how much storage you need, and how the space should flow.

When giving your kitchen a traditional

makeover, "you need to pay attention to the details," she says. Putting together a traditional-style kitchen is all about layering a variety of materials, textures, and finishes. The use of wood, paneling, stone, or glass results in a lot of looks to catch the eye as opposed to the clean lines of a contemporary kitchen.

These details are the elements that will link the new kitchen with the history of the home, say the architectural and interior design staff at Hansen Architects in Savannah. Or in the case of new construction, these details combine to create a space inspired by tradition.

## Storage

Cabinets, more than any other item, can determine the look and feel of the room. For a more authentic, traditional look, use flush insets on the cabinet doors. Use painted wood in colors such as buttercream, Frederick says. Homeowners can even use the hand-rubbed finish technique on the paint to create the look that it has been there for the ages.

For aesthetics, Hansen Architects staffers suggest using matching cabinetry panels to conceal appliances, or consider the built-in look for appliances, such as the refrigerator.

## Surfaces

Marble countertops are most compatible with traditional-style kitchens. For flooring, stone or wood is preferred. Frederick suggests using stone or tile for the backsplash. She also recommends that larger pieces, such as an island, be created to look like a separate piece of furniture with a different surface, such as butcher block.

## Lighting

Vintage-style lighting can be easily found these days. Bellowing lamps hanging over an island or lantern sconces near a cozy dining area add period ambiance.

## Finishing touches

Think of the hardware as the final jewelry for the traditional kitchen. Look for oil-rubbed bronze, antique brass, satin nickel, or a blackened finish. Other touches to consider include using a farmhouse sink and Shaker or dimensional molding.

Once all the aspects of the traditional kitchen are put in place, they will appear to have been there for years—just like the kitchen itself.

## Kitchens & Cuisine

To get a taste of beautifully designed and decorated kitchens in the Beaufort area, check out the Historic Beaufort Foundation for the Kitchens & Cuisine leg of the Fall Tour of Homes & Gardens. The kitchen tours are on Sunday afternoon of the weekend-long event, October 24 through 26.

The fall tour, which has been delighting visitors for more than 20 years, is the major fund-raiser for the Foundation and gives tour-goers a peek inside private historic homes, gardens, and plantations.

Tour-goers have the opportunity to explore six more-modern homes in other places in the Beaufort area, such as Lady's Island and Distant Island. They can also taste regional specialties created by the chefs of some of the most popular local restaurants.

"A kitchen tour is a fun way to spend a Sunday afternoon," says Maxine Lutz, the Foundation's executive assistant. "It's a great day trip for anybody in this region." ■

For more information about the tour and for tickets, visit [www.historicbeaufort.com](http://www.historicbeaufort.com) or call 843-379-3331.



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