

Happily Ever After

When Gerry Recktenwald happened upon concrete countertops the color of the Columbia River Gorge, it was love at first sight.

He and wife Elsbeth Martindale had been dreaming of remodeling their kitchen since buying their home in 1992

and had already drawn up initial plans. As they were planning the room, long hikes along the gorge led Gerry to collect basalt rocks in brown, green, and other colors that appealed to him; finding the perfect look-alike countertop gave the couple the final push to make their dreams a reality.

In addition to being infused with the colors of the Pacific Northwest, the renovated room features Craftsman-style cabinets, beaded board, and wood trim consistent with the rest of the classically styled 1911 home. The once-cramped kitchen is now spacious and efficient, with plenty of room for two avid cooks to prepare dinner while their 8-year-old son, Cullen, does homework at the center island or guests relax with a glass of wine.

This warm, inviting family kitchen is blessed with all of the elements the couple had hoped for—both functional and aesthetic—and Elsbeth is thrilled with the result. "It's an incredible space," she says. **DK**

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THIS PHOTO: The homeowners wanted a modern kitchen that echoes the home's traditional Craftsman style.

ABOVE LEFT AND LEFT: Craftsman-style cabinets, lighting, and other period details marry a contemporary island and high-end appliances.



Cozy Collectibles

Taken by their collection of dishware, silver, and pewter, Debbie and Greg Gambee desired a kitchen that would highlight their precious objects. "We went from what we collected to a look that would accommodate it," Debbie says.

Debbie desired a cozy space that had modern amenities but not a modern look. "I wanted a kitchen that had a used, rustic feeling to it," she says. So she chose vintage-white cabinets, jasmine-yellow pantry units, and a country-pine island to create French country charm.

Polished-granite countertops contain striking blue and purple streaks that further reflect French country style. An old-fashioned porcelain sink and a refrigerator featuring cabinetry-matching panels and wrought-iron handles provide an antique look with modern functionality. A backsplash of 3x6-inch subway tiles adds classic charisma above the stainless-steel range. **DK**

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The French-style kitchen offers plenty of display places for the couple's collections, such as the mantel-like ledge above the range.

