



**How it works in one small kitchen**  
Erin Davis and Arlene Lord of Mosaik Design coordinated color and texture for this compact space.

**ABOVE:** Sue and Andy Heydon wanted nothing more than a place to sit in their small kitchen. The built-in bench and custom-made table do the trick while adding texture and color to the room.

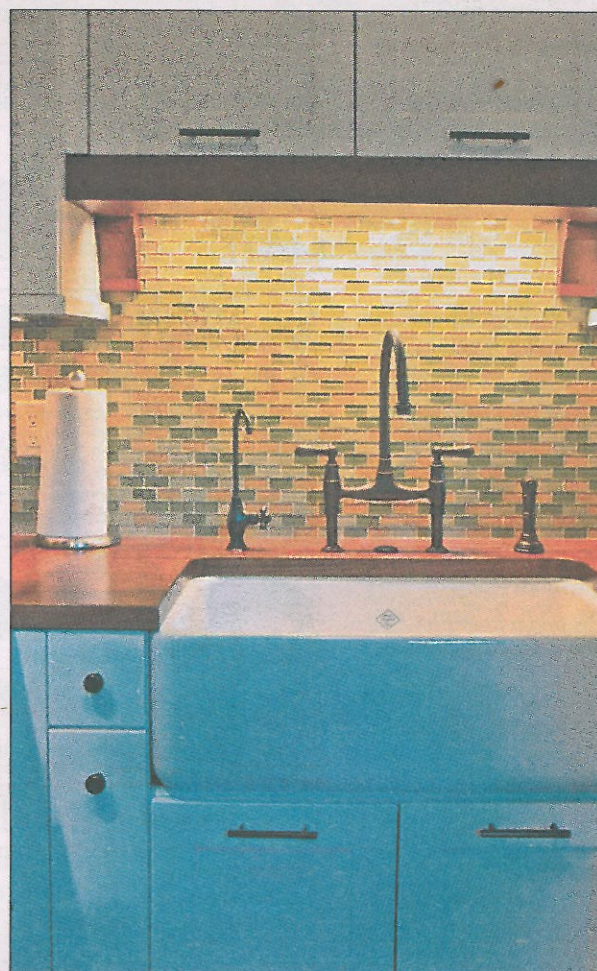
**RIGHT:** The fireclay kitchen sink evokes memories of the Heydons' British heritage. Its no-nonsense farmhouse style balances perfectly between the classic cabinetry and the more rustic faucet.

# THE NORTHWEST Source



**ABOVE:** The lush walnut counters bring warmth and texture to the sleek white cabinets.

**RIGHT:** Miniature glass subway tiles pick up colors used throughout the kitchen and reflect light around the space.



PHOTOS BY MARV BONDAROWICZ/THE OREGONIAN



# Bold harmony

*Modest kitchens don't have to be monochromatic*

**P**ale-yellow cabinets. Water-blue built-in cupboard. Copper-tone countertops.

Granite in the colors of a sandy river bed.

Mahogany stained floors.

Stainless steel appliances.

These dissimilar materials were all used in one kitchen — and not a large kitchen — in such a harmonious way it gave me pause.

I asked designer Stephanie Ness with Mosaik Design about how she and designer Erin Davis landed on the varied textures and colors, and whether they had a strategy for meting out the different looks within the modest kitchen.

Pausing as if I'd asked a trick question, Ness explained that the variations kept the room from being boring.

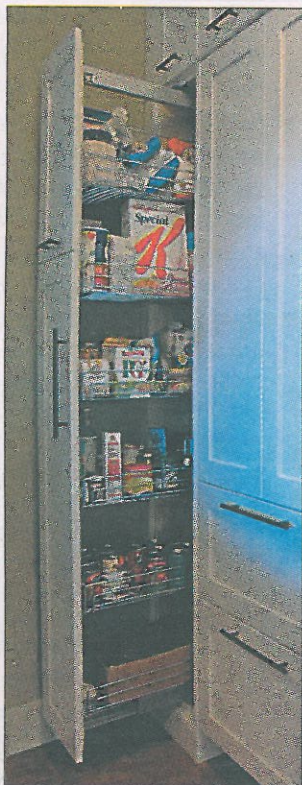
"Oh," I said, "like one big (searching here for the right technical term) blah?"

"Yes," she said, "exactly."

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE



**CHANGE OF SPACE**  
Bridget A. Otto



**Making the most of space,** the end cabinet became a pullout pantry.

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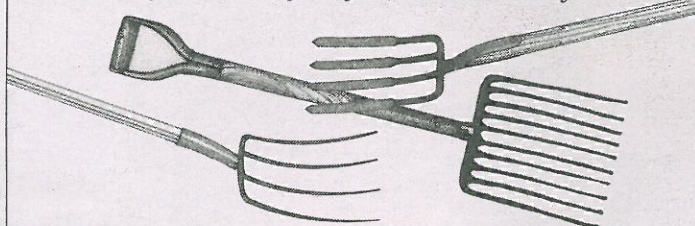
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## SOURCE/CHANGE OF SPACE



The softly rounded globe lights over the built-in bench area add a splash of jewelry to the kitchen.

Grounded in classic design, the Heydons' approximately 200-square-foot kitchen wears all the adornments of a larger space — and wears them well.

FROM PAGE 7

Looking around the kitchen, my eyes moved instinctively from counter to cabinet to the built-in. I found myself engaged in each change-up. Decorative toe kicks, an exhaust hood trimmed like cabinetry and a ribbon of black running through the granite studded the U-shaped space with surprise.

I was, however, still flummoxed.

The use of so many "looks" in one limited space seemed counterintuitive. I always thought the less you broke up a space, the more seamless — or larger — it would appear. And this isn't wrong; monochromatic design has many fans. But seamless can also flirt with dullness.

People tend to go with the monochromatic look because it's safe, says designer Michelle Rolens of Neil Kelly Co.

She, like Ness and Davis, goes boldly forth.

"You need something at eye level to draw the eye," she says.

To that end, Rolens suggests putting lighter materials at eye level and above. The backsplash is a popular spot to create a focal point. Another is glass-fronted cabinets, where your eye probes

that extra foot of depth.

"That's why we look out windows," Rolens explains.

Variably sized soffits work in a similar way. The varying depths also allow light to bounce around the room, not stagnate.

Echoing that yin/yang approach in the kitchen they designed, Ness and Davis had some of the cabinets come flush to the floor, while others stand on decorative toe kicks.

"I think everything has to be right for the space," says interior designer Diane Plesset of D.P. Design and Publishing. "Using color and texture requires rhythm."

For instance, Ness and Davis created a coppery tile backsplash above the stove and then repeated that tile work in a mirror image directly across the room. The blue built-in cupboard is anchored on either side by cabinets in the same creamy color as the cabinets under the countertop. The colors that run through the granite slab on the island are repeated generously in small tiles that cover an expanse of wall.

Adding a touch of color and tile here and then repeating it

elsewhere works to create harmony. When you hit this right, the layers build character and interest.

So how do you pull this off without creating a design hodgepodge?

First, says Plesset, colors for the kitchen must complement nearby spaces.

"We all look at magazines," Plesset says, "but those are snapshots of one room, and that's not how we live. We move from room to room."

When Ness and Davis were deciding on an accent color, they noticed the clients' collection of blue-and-white china and colored the built-in cupboard water blue. It is the only blue in the kitchen, but it complements the dark brown floor and similarly colored cabinets and tile work. Its size and placement are eye-catching, not out of place or off balance.

That's a trained eye at work, using a palette of colors that work together.

Designer Nancy Mitchell of Nancy Mitchell Interiors says people make a mistake by adding too many colors. She suggests creating a more generic backdrop of earthy colors that can be accessorized today, tomorrow or later, but still look current.

You don't want to create a kitchen that screams what year it was born, says Mitchell. "It's important to love that kitchen in 10 years."

Rolens says that when using dissimilar materials — painted woodwork, stainless steel appliances, honed granite, tumbled stone, stucco walls, natural wood — consider keeping the doors or cabinets a little simpler. The cabinets might take up an expanse, but you don't want your eye drawn only to them. Also, in a small kitchen, keep appliances all the same color, or panel them to resemble the cabinet doors and they disappear altogether.

Contrast is another way to

## BALANCE

Erin Davis and Mosaik Design and about bringing texture.

- ◆ Build on a base that's simple. Add fun materials in fashion, outfit and jewelry or which can be changed.
- ◆ Keep the cabinets, tabletops — can change the light stools eat.
- ◆ Pick accessories to reflect your personality.
- ◆ Learn to live with everything.
- ◆ White simplifies the eye.
- ◆ Horizontal lines give the spot.
- ◆ In a small hardware througho

create impact space. It's a far cry from the John Hendrickson.

A kitchen by Sandy, created white cabinet they stained that sleek counter marble countertop hardware.

"It's just our 'Electric, really."

Whether the punch up a smaller larger application says, he is seeing adventures on dissimilar materials and natural cl "It's bold."

Rolens attributes increased interest in materials to the Mitchell think in world travel.

Whatever the says: "People are everywhere for

Bridget A. Otto: 503/bridgetotto@news

