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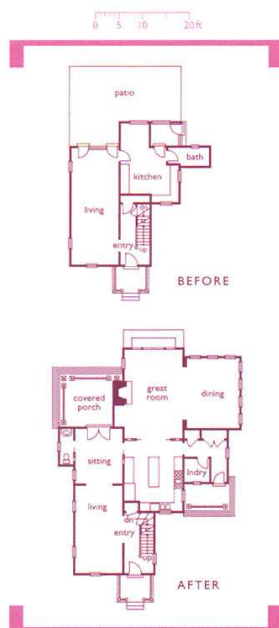
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our**best**kitchens

THE FRESHLY REMODELED KITCHEN OF THIS CENTURY-OLD SUMMER HOUSE OFFERS A RELAXED AND INVITING ATMOSPHERE

WHAT THEY DID

Architect Katherine McCoy worked with the owners of this Long Island home to create a comfortable family haven from a structure that was practically “falling down around itself.” The team more than doubled the square footage of the house with a two-story addition and gutted the existing structure, replacing the electrical and heating systems, adding air conditioning, and opening the rooms onto each other for a more modern flow. The kitchen’s location stayed the same, but the reconfiguration of adjoining areas—a rear staircase, a small bathroom, and a mudroom—added the square footage to create the efficient space seen here.



WHY IT'S OUR FAVORITE!

Remodeling can be a tricky business. It's all too easy to end up with a kitchen that hews slavishly to the architectural origins of the house, without representing the character or lifestyle of its owners. Though part of a century-old home in Wainscott, an eastern Long Island waterfront hamlet, this kitchen has a modern, can-do attitude that suits the intrepid family that visits every summer. Note the contrast between the traditional detailing on the window frames and the contemporary simplicity of the blonde wood cabinets. And the way the stainless-steel range and hood bridge the gap between past and present. And the careful attention to storage: Slide-out baskets are the perfect spot for summer produce; glass-front wall cabinets show off pretty glassware; and pantry cabinets keep less-attractive essentials handy but out of sight. Finally, the kitchen's layout is as up to date as the materials; prep areas wrap around a large center island, and the whole space opens onto a comfortable great room.

GET THE INSIDE TRACK

When remodeling this “decaying” Wainscott house, architect McCoy used the home’s quirks to the benefit of the final design. A few pieces of advice:

Conserve. Though they would gut most of the home’s interiors, architect and homeowners kept the existing flooring intact, even though it is out of plumb.

Recycle. To keep the look cohesive, McCoy installed flooring salvaged from a barn in Vermont throughout the areas added during the remodeling.

Restore. Concerned about preserving the character of the house, McCoy opted to refurbish the existing windows wherever possible; all new windows were custom-crafted to reproduce the ones original to the home.

Reinvent. McCoy did not attempt to reproduce the original kitchen. Instead, she specified contemporary cabinets and stainless-steel appliances, relying on timeless detailing like window frames and bead-board ceilings to lend an architecturally appropriate air.

our *best* kitchens

