

# Better Homes and Gardens

JANUARY 2006 \$3.49  
www.bhg.com

WRAP YOURSELF IN

red

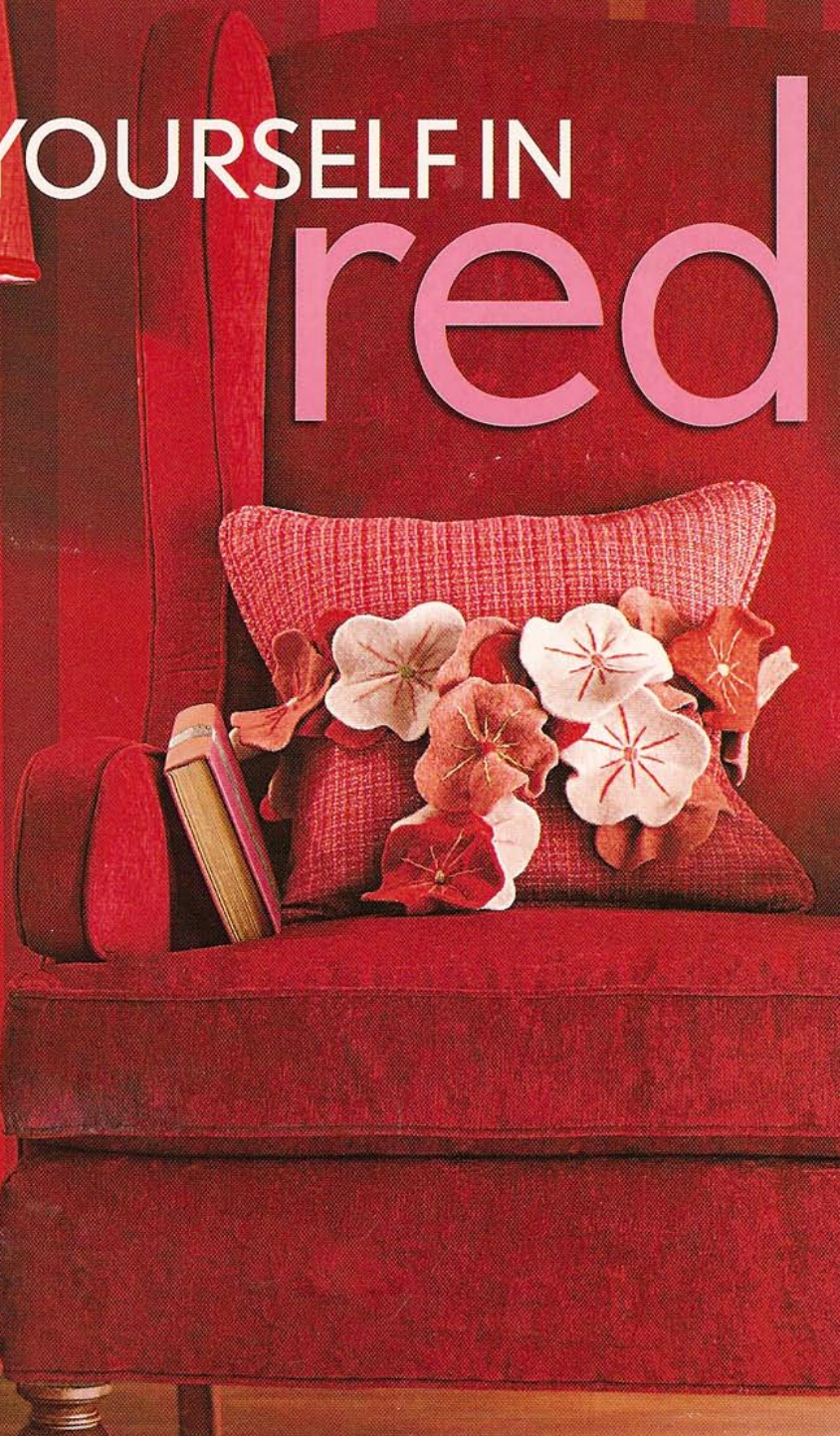
Try a tabletop  
garden

Update your  
kitchen with  
success

Have a kids'  
sleepover

plus:

Dozens of great  
display ideas





New cabinetry atop the peninsula creates an airy barrier between the kitchen and dining room. Built-in drawers and shelves also increase the peninsula's function.

# PUTTING VINTAGE TO WORK

BY AMY LAUGHINGHOUSE PHOTOGRAPHS BY EDMUND BARR PRODUCED BY ROBIN TUCKER

Clean colors, classic materials, tall cabinetry, and lots of clever storage nooks bring this old California kitchen up to the speed of life for dual attorneys.



KITCHENS >>from 54

decor. General contractor Dale Thomas began by gutting the kitchen. Soapstone counters and white cabinetry, custom built by Jim Davis and accented by beaded board and brushed nickel hardware, were installed to provide an old-fashioned framework.

Kenyon layered on more nostalgia with reproduction pendant light fixtures, pearly subway tiles, and a porcelain apron-front sink with a gooseneck faucet to recapture the home's rich history. The windows were replaced with custom divided glass over a solid pane to mimic those throughout the rest of the bungalow. The designer also removed an unsightly cooktop from a pass-through countertop, freeing up counter space for food preparation. A cranberry-color range claimed the spot once occupied by the refrigerator (which was moved around the corner) and dated double ovens.

Although the kitchen is just 200 square feet, Kenyon incorporated multiple nooks and crannies that make it appear larger. Open shelving, much of it mounted overhead, displays the Hamiltons' collection of art pottery. A tiny bookcase, original to the home, was retained to hold the couple's vegetarian cookbooks, and a glass-front cabinet plays peek-a-boo with the adjoining dining room.

Friends say that every space is used perfectly, like the galley on a ship. For example, at Michael's request, Kenyon found space for a small wine rack, which Davis tucked on the end of a peninsula that divides the kitchen from the dining room. To keep clutter at bay—another of Michael's concerns—Kenyon directed Davis to build a cherry secretary with slots and drawers to organize >> on 58

The built-in banquette (*top left*) is a handy place for Megan Hamilton to pore over recipes. Through the doorway, lower cabinets conceal cat box facilities—complete with a timer-controlled ventilation system—for the Hamiltons' four kitties. Shelving (*left*) installed above two cabinets spans the length of the peninsula, putting vertical space to good use.





## KITCHENS >> from 56

letters, bills, and other household flotsam. "I used to love to do jigsaw puzzles as a child," Kenyon says of her knack for fitting so much storage in a small space. "I have the same feeling when I do these designs, but now I get to make the pieces."

The leading question was what to do about the 17-foot ceiling, which created a welcome sense of spaciousness but seemed too cavernous in a bungalow. Ultimately, the Hamiltons compromised by lowering it to 12 feet at its peak. To trim out these upper reaches, Kenyon encased the range hood with beaded board that stretches to the ceiling. Glass-front cabinets perched above 8-foot-high molding flank the hood.

Around the corner from the range, Davis crafted a pair of built-in banquettes that sidle up to a custom-made walnut table, creating a snug niche where Megan and Michael enjoy informal meals while gazing at their garden. Small details, such as the beaded-board backs on the banquettes and a vintage overhead light fixture recycled from a bedroom, create a vignette straight from the 1920s.

"Sometimes people don't even realize that this is a new kitchen," Megan says. "They think this is what it always looked like. That's the biggest compliment we could ever get." ☺

RESOURCES >> PAGE 146

More at [bhg.com](http://bhg.com)  
[www.bhg.com/kitchenplanning](http://www.bhg.com/kitchenplanning)



To add interest to the kitchen's vaulted ceiling, Kenyon continued the cabinetry (top left) from an 8-foot high molding to the 12-foot peak. Built-in niches and glass-front cabinets display art pottery and serving pieces. The range (left) is a cheerful focal point in the predominantly white kitchen. The custom-made cherry secretary also visually warms the room.