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# Remodeling

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# Time to Update

Remodeling gives us the opportunity to go back to the future. Case in point: this kitchen in a 1920s house from "Past Perfected," beginning on page 62. Not too long ago it was a muddled makeover dating to the 1960s. Now, the newly renovated kitchen has taken on a vintage look, while including such contemporary must-haves as a high-performance range; better storage; and a casual, easily navigated layout. Even where interior design winks back at yesterday, the best rooms—like those in this issue—fix their gaze on the days ahead.



# Past Perfect

Looking back inspires a kitchen  
that fits today and tomorrow.

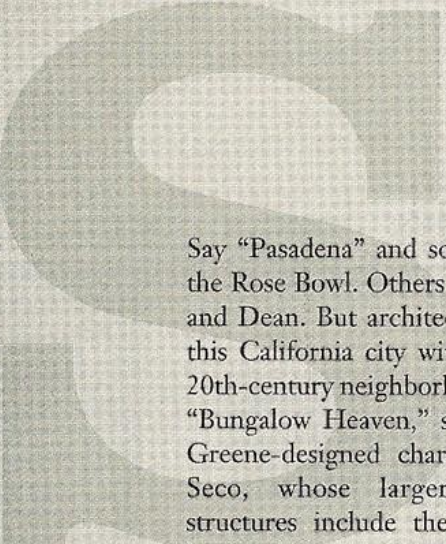
Efficient yet calming, Mary and Tom Lyon's remodeled kitchen pairs deep green granite countertops with sage-green wall tile. Oak floors, laid to match those elsewhere in the house, wear four coats of durable polyurethane.





A built-in microwave oven frees up countertop space below. A warming drawer is conveniently located near the microwave oven and range, as well as the refrigerator.





Say “Pasadena” and some people picture the Rose Bowl. Others hum a song by Jan and Dean. But architecture buffs identify this California city with charming early-20th-century neighborhoods. Visitors tour “Bungalow Heaven,” site of Greene and Greene-designed charmers, and Arroyo Seco, whose larger, European-style structures include the Tudor-influenced home of Mary and Tom Lyon.

The couple has lived in both landmark districts. “We just gravitate to that kind of place,” Mary says. With son James, now 13, and daughter Kate, 10, Tom and Mary were drawn to the Tudor’s space and character. Unfortunately, previous kitchen updates replaced 1923 traditional with 1960s terrible, and poor traffic flow isolated the kitchen from the backyard.

Mary sought a style that merged old and new. “I saw a magazine picture of a kitchen with white cabinets, dark countertops, and stainless-steel appliances,” she recalls. “That’s what I want,” I said.”

She and Tom asked interior designer Mary Kenyon to create such a kitchen, making the new space look as original as possible. “We didn’t want to create an enormous area that wasn’t in keeping with the house,” she says. “We just wanted a freer flow for casual indoor-outdoor living, and more of an openness than most Tudors have.”

The Lyons had their interior designer, but finding a contractor required six interviews. Third-generation builder Dale Thomas made the cut because, as Mary puts it, “he’s a fanatic for detail.” That was necessary with the project team wanting to

incorporate architectural elements from the original house.

In came period cornice and corbel motifs and custom wood windows with narrow mullions. Then Thomas went further, matching baseboards and crown moldings, replating register grilles, finding reproduction window hardware, even using only slot-head screws—no anachronistic Phillips. “We tried to stay true to the period to make the existing tie in with the new,” Thomas says.

Kenyon, meanwhile, optimized storage space throughout the kitchen, starting with pots-and-pans cabinets. “I recommended a 48-inch range, which I knew would work well with lazy Susans on each side,” she says. “I often start at the corners and put them in first. Certain pieces just make the design puzzle fit.”

Not everything went so smoothly. “Opening up the walls revealed original knob-and-tube wiring, so we had to rewire the whole house,” Mary says. “It turned out to be 11 months versus six. We had to move out. I wanted to stay married.”

Thomas wasn’t surprised by the project’s challenges. “You usually build in about 20 percent over budget for unexpected problems,” he says. “The older the house, the more you need to add.”

The finished kitchen now looks and feels better. Despite its modest size, “you can have a lot of people working in the kitchen at the same time,” Mary says. And three doorways now integrate kitchen and the great outdoors. With the last piece in place, the old Tudor is ready for the Lyon family to make a new chapter of history.

FOR RESOURCES, SEE PAGE 120.

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**Insider's Tip**  
Instead of a central island, Mary Kenyon designed a short peninsula where two can comfortably snack without blocking traffic in the kitchen. "Islands are wonderful, but I didn't want to break up the space," she explains.

The Lyons' two children can grab a snack at this beaded-board-base peninsula on their way out to the backyard, or clean up at the small sink on their way in.





THIS PHOTO: A pro-style range demands attention beneath a period-style tiled niche. Beaded board sheathes the range hood and visually links painted upper cabinets. OPPOSITE: Fixed panes, flanked by casement windows and topped by transom units, add architectural interest over the sink. Pullout cutting boards on either side of the sink add handy work space.







## How to Manage Appliance Costs

New appliances can drain a remodeling budget, but Mary Lyon set her priorities.

- She chose one item to splurge on: a pro-style range. "I liked the look and it's the focal point of the kitchen," she says.

- She bought other appliances from several manufacturers—and at different price levels—instead of a single-brand "suite." "There are enough appliances out there to complement the look," she says.

- She put function first. "Mary is a very practical person," designer Mary Kenyon explains. These appliances aren't just for show; they meet her needs.



A new breakfast room was created from the former family room, and a doorway was carved out to connect the eating area and the kitchen. Two doors were added on either side of an original window to better connect indoors and out. In the new layout, a wet bar and undercounter refrigerator are just steps from thirsty users of the home's pool and wraparound brick patio.







# get the look

Want the clean, classic style of Mary and Tom Lyon's kitchen (pages 62-69)? Carefully blend retro, traditional, and contemporary elements.



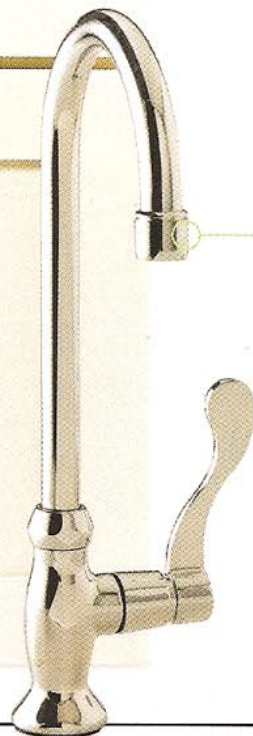
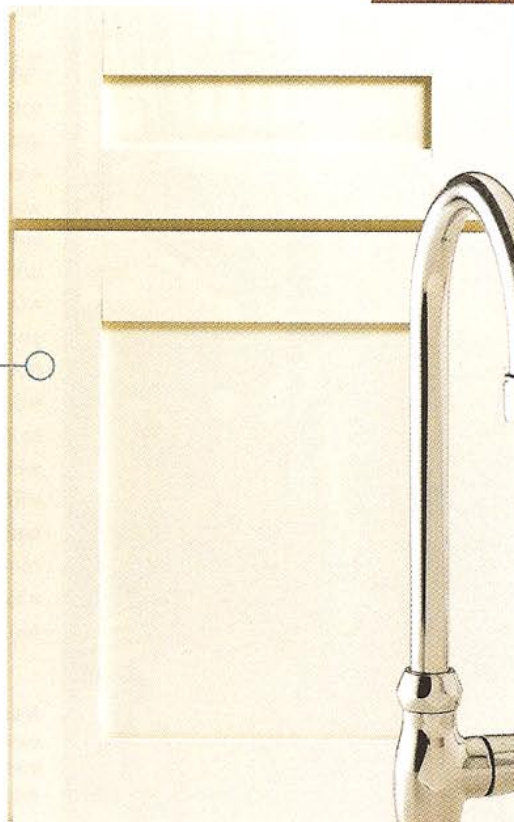
## granite VS. laminate

### Go for Elegance

Today's countertop choices let you get classic good looks at any price. Real stone, such as the Uba Tuba granite, *above left*, often costs \$60-\$120 per linear foot. Labrador Granite, *above right*, a laminate, offers a budget-friendly alternative with a price of \$30-\$40 per linear foot. Formica Corp.; 800/367-6422; [www.formica.com](http://www.formica.com)

### Keep It Simple

The clean and sophisticated design of the full-overlay Lancaster maple door in Divinity makes it ideal for traditional or contemporary kitchens. Wellborn Cabinet, Inc.; 800/336-8040; [www.wellborn.com](http://www.wellborn.com)



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