



Gentle readers, welcome,

In the past two decades, the kitchen – that formerly hidden, utilitarian space – has taken centre stage in our homes. No longer just the room in which meal preparation takes place, the kitchen is now the most important room in the house. The nourishment we get from our kitchens transcends the food we ingest to fuel our bodies. It has become the go-to place and because, in many homes, it is now open to adjacent rooms, it has become, of necessity, a place of beauty, too.

That's why kitchen design is now such a major focus. In addition to wanting a functional space where we can cook, we also want that space to be visually appealing. And, aesthete that I am, I needed my kitchen to dish up beauty.

The kitchen of my 1847 restored Regency home was formed out of two rooms: the small galley kitchen that had been created in the 1970s, and the butler's pantry, which was probably made in 1924, the date of its first big renovation. I opened these two rooms up and combined them to create a work space with enough room for a table. I chose Italian travertine-like ceramic for the floor, and cobalt blue for the lower cabinetry, which of course I designed with all rounded edges. The upper cabinets are the same as the originals both in style and colour as those in the former butler's pantry, and they are in the exact place where they stood, with all their original copper pulls and hinges.

The copper hood above the stove was created out of the remnants of the original roof of the house when it was replaced.

In this new kitchen, I installed a double oven, a huge fridge and two sinks, one in the island facing the stove, and one far away on the other side of the kitchen, next to the table. Each has a dishwasher. There is also a "pot filler" faucet for the stove.

I also (brilliantly) installed, under this extra side cabinetry an extra drawer refrigerator, known as the "drinks" fridge. This is a lifesaver when you have teenage boys, as I did, and now grown kids, (thankfully) who still bring home gaggles of friends, and it is my delight to have them all sit at the table in the kitchen.

When the kitchen is used to gather friends and family around the table, in good times and in bad, in camaraderie and in company or companionship, one understands the meaning of the word "hearth" or in our day: kitchen. Long live the kitchen!

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