



A Kitchen Reborn

With the original plans in hand,
these homeowners set about to bring back the glory of the past.

By Kimberly Merritt Photos by John Hession

Simple in style, this lovely Peabody & Stearns turn-of-the-century home can be found in Newport, N.H. Owners Kathy and Dan Walsh have been lovingly restoring the house for several years.

Originally built in 1906 as a summer cottage for a Boston family, the home has a warm, cozy feel from the outside in. After working in several areas of the home, Dan and Kathy decided a kitchen redo was in order to correct a former 1950s update that wasn't quite right for the house. They took the kitchen down to the studs about three years ago and brought in Susan Booth of Vintage Kitchens in Concord to help with the improvements.

The Walshes quickly found that they each shared a vision with Booth of what it would take to maintain and create architectural integrity while introducing modern functionality into the room.



A search through the home uncovered blueprints of the original structure, which served as a fact-finding tool while seeking out historical references for the cabinets and other features. Vintage Kitchens was then able to replicate the cabinets from these blueprints and hand-craft them in its New Hampshire studio.

A summer porch was gutted and combined with the original kitchen space to become part of the new remodel. This melding allowed both Kathy and Dan to cook and entertain in style and still mingle with guests.

One of the challenges in bringing a historic home into the 21st century is space, or the lack thereof. Every nook and cranny must be used wisely in order to generate enough storage, prep and cooking surfaces. Booth was able to do this by paying close attention to molding and cabinet widths as well as clever