

An Antique Table *Inspires* a Modern Kitchen Design

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After spending 30 years in the U.S. Foreign Service, a Bethesda couple returned to the U.S. with a dream of making their long rented house a home. Throughout their many moves, the couple took family furniture and heirlooms along, lending a sense of continuity and familiarity in each new setting. For some, furniture is a practical necessity, but for this couple, furniture tells a story -- one that combines family history with tales of far-flung locales.

When it came time to remodel their dated kitchen, the couple requested not only a more modern design, but also one that incorporated their family heirlooms. In addition to more space, upgraded appliances, and more natural light, our design team modernized the kitchen by opening the wall between the dining room and the kitchen. This design choice allows for a better layout and a visual connection between the rooms. The newly opened wall makes both the kitchen and dining

room feel significantly larger, while still maintaining definition between spaces. Replication of moldings at the new wall provides consistency and maintains the integrity of the home.

To complete the new kitchen, our team seamlessly integrated the best of modern conveniences with the family's furniture and heirlooms. When the couple asked us to design a breakfast bay around a beloved round elm wood table and presidential Hitchcock chairs, we happily obliged, suggesting designs for square, angled or round breakfast bays.

After some deliberation, the client decided upon a segmented, half-round bay design. Four new double hung windows and a new glass door capture the woodland views and southern sunlight, setting the stage for a cozy family breakfast or afternoon tea. A milky white glass and brushed brass light pendant hangs above

the breakfast table, providing the right balance of old and new. And, as an added bonus, basement level storage was built beneath the bay. Easily accessible from the outside, this storage room is the perfect spot for bikes and garden tools.

Drawing inspiration from family antiques can be the perfect way to inspire a remodeling project. By marrying the old and new, our design team was able to give our client a modern home with character. And the happy experience of the kitchen remodel spurred the couple to move forward with two bathroom remodeling projects. By working closely with the homeowners, we helped create a space that feels new, yet familiar -- a house that feels like home.

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Bar stools at the new kitchen island provide additional seating for guests.



The new half-round bay was added to accommodate the antique Elm wood breakfast table.



The wall between the dining room and new kitchen was opened to enhance the sense of space, southern light and family communication.



A central island accommodates sink, dishwasher and pull-out trash and an attractive glass door cabinet for glassware.