

New and Old Mix It Up in a Historic Farmhouse Kitchen

A couple rethink the kitchen in their Pennsylvania farmhouse to restore authenticity while also creating a space for modern living



Jeannie Matteucci

Houzz Contributor, home design writer and lifestyle reporter with a love... More >

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Sometimes you reach a breaking point with a kitchen. Just ask Jacqui Jarrett and her partner, Joe Yannuzzi, whose critical moment came last year as they were hosting a big Thanksgiving dinner for family and friends. "I had 30 people standing in our kitchen, and the oven wasn't working," Jacqui says. All that raw turkey inspired her and Joe to make a change.



Kitchen at a Glance

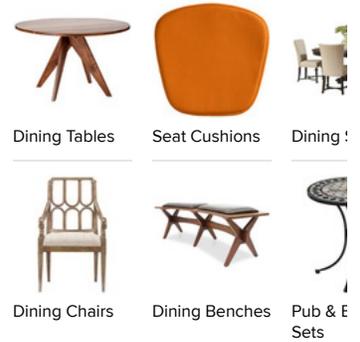
Who lives here: Joe Yannuzzi, an attorney; Jacqui Jarrett, a registered dietician; his son, Anthony, 15; and her son, Dylan, 24

Location: Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

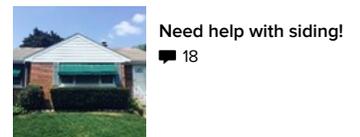
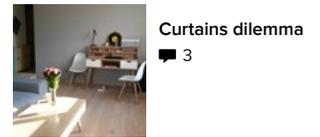
Size: 290 square feet (26.9 square meters)

BEFORE: The existing closed-off kitchen in their historic Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, farmhouse, which was built in the 1790s and was once owned by a descendant of William Penn, was updated by a previous owner. It had dark maple cabinets, tile counters, white appliances, limited prep space and a narrow doorway that limited flow between the kitchen and dining room.

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“There wasn’t enough counter space or storage space, the refrigerator juttod out into traffic flow, and there was that oven that didn’t work,” Jacqui says.



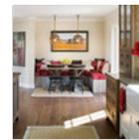
“After” photos by Matt Villano Photography

AFTER: The couple, who share the home with Joe’s son, Anthony, 15, and Jacqui’s son, Dylan, 24, opened things up and created better flow by eliminating the wall between the kitchen and adjacent dining room.

Working with their kitchen designer, Jacqui’s sister Jill Jarrett of Jarrett Design, the couple went for a transitional look with soft gray tones that help bridge the gap between old and new. A multipurpose center island, distressed soapstone counters, stacked inset cabinets and a refinished original hardwood floor give the space character and style.

Removing the wall between the kitchen and dining room opened things up. But, as with many historic homes, eliminating the non-load-bearing wall filled with years of dirt, horse hair and newspapers required special attention. “The floor was sloped where the wall came down, about 5 inches, and the installers had to perform some magic so the floor now looks straight,” Jill says.

Cabinetry: custom in Vista Gray and Stone, Plain & Fancy Custom Cabinetry; counters: distressed soapstone, Bucks County Soapstone; pendants over island: Roost, Lightology; wall paint: Silver Coffee Pot, Sherwin-Williams



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Jarrett Design, LLC

This view into the kitchen from the doorway to the family room gives a glimpse at the interior stone walls that contribute to the character of this classic farmhouse, as does the antique pine floor. "We had to refinish it, locate some antique pine and bring in someone familiar with antique floors," Jill says. "Because we tore the wall down, we also had to repair a few spots. It required work, but it adds so much character, and it would be a shame to use anything else."

Island stools: Ballard Designs



Jarrett Design, LLC

This is the view of the kitchen from the dining room, with a small seating area beyond the kitchen. The family room is through the doorway.

Carrara Marble Hexagon Mosaic Tile 2
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The multifunctional island doubles as a buffet for entertaining, with a medium gray finish that contrasts the surrounding light gray maple cabinets. The island has the kitchen's main single-basin sink with a polished nickel bridge faucet, along with double trash pullouts, a paneled dishwasher and distressed soapstone counters.

"The soapstone was the perfect choice for a farmhouse and gives us a timeless look," Jacqui says.

The electrical part of the project was another challenge. Since the walls are stone and stucco, adding switches and outlets for lighting on the walls was nearly impossible. The solution was to add them to the posts of the island. You can barely make out a couple of switches on the post at the far end of the island in this photo.

Shaws Original apron-front fireclay kitchen sink and Perrin & Rowe bridge faucet: Rohl; paneled dishwasher: Thermador

 Before Photo



BEFORE: The old white refrigerator protruded into the main traffic-flow area of the kitchen.



AFTER: With the kitchen's main sink now located in the center island, a new prep sink highlights the kitchen's beverage center and prep area. A paneled beverage refrigerator sits to the lower left of the sink, with a microwave and convection oven combo to the right. A pullout spice rack is located between the microwave and the range.

The seeded-glass-front cabinet stores cups and glasses. Corbels lend it a furniture look that reflects the classic nature of the home. To the left, a stacked light gray pantry cabinet is shallower to ease traffic flow while creating a collected look. "I wanted the kitchen to look like it has been there forever and had layers," Jacqui says.

Lantern over prep sink: Katie's Colonial Lighting; prep sink: Blanco; prep-sink faucet: Rohl; microwave-convection oven: KitchenAid



The 36-inch-wide, six-burner range with vent hood is an update from the previous four-burner range.

Soapstone extends from the counters to create the range backsplash, with a simple shelf added for bottles of oils and a few spices. "It's nice to limit the different materials," Jill says. "You can sometimes get too fancy. This honors the simplicity of the home."

Range and hood: Thermador



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The large paneled French-door refrigerator with pullout freezer gives the couple the furniture look and warmth they wanted. The two deep drawers between the refrigerator and range offer storage for pots and pans.

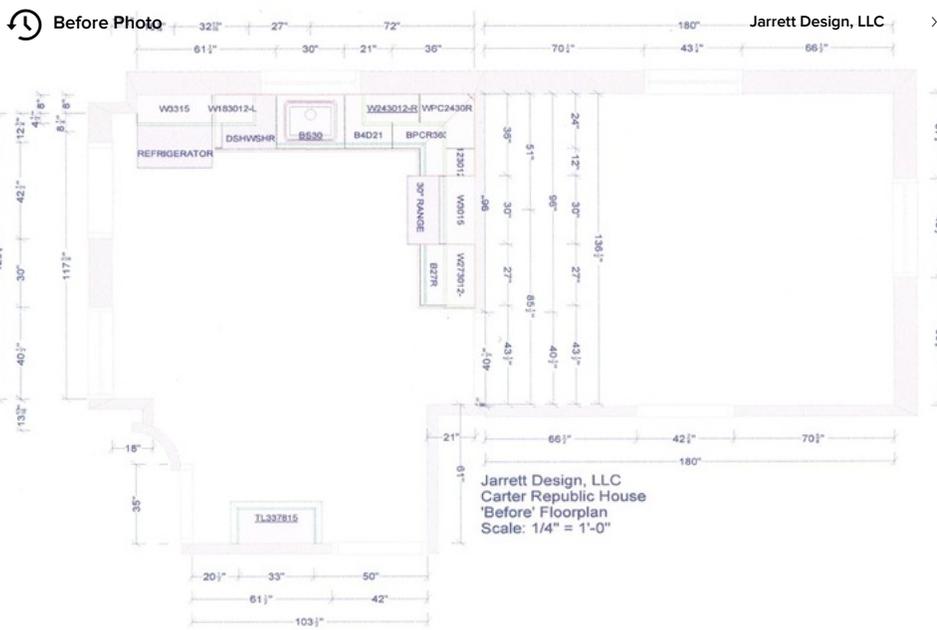
Paneled refrigerator: Thermador



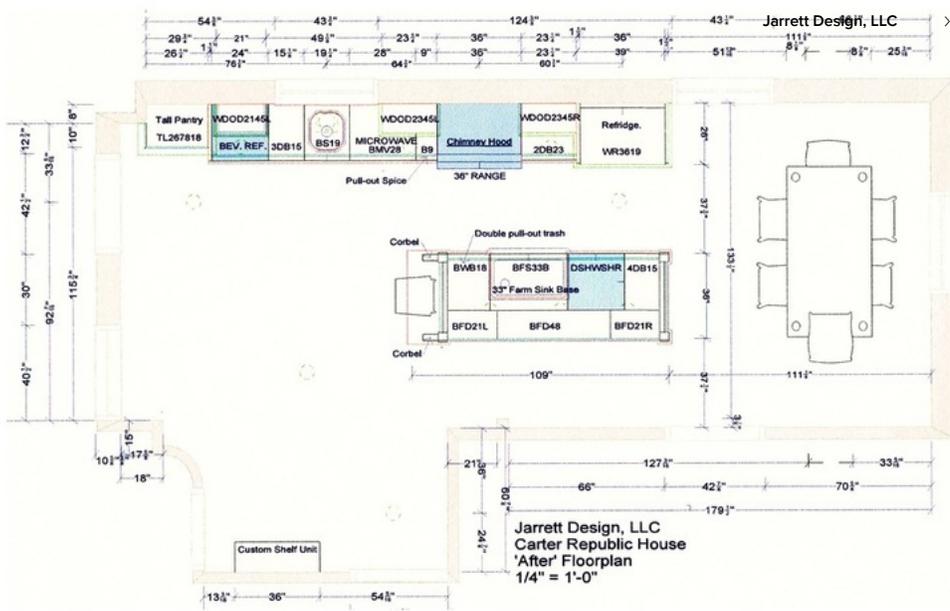
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A custom antique-style open shelf unit made from local iron and reclaimed wood from a local 200-year-old granary holds frequently used serving bowls and other dishes. "It was an opportunity for extra storage, and a chance to use that area with the angled ceiling," Jill says.

The small door leads to the basement.



BEFORE: This floor plan of the existing kitchen shows the limitations of the old L-shaped layout and how the kitchen was cut off from the dining room. It also highlights how the refrigerator stuck out like a sore thumb.



AFTER: Now the kitchen extends and blends into the dining room, and gives the homeowners what they need for quick weekday meals, weekend dinner parties and, yes, those large Thanksgiving meals, too.

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Decorating: 10 Modern-rustic Interiors With Natural Appeal

Want to evoke a welcoming, calm feel at home? Fall for the honest simplicity of this pared-back incarnation of traditional rustic style

Laura Wheat
 Houzz Contributor, Freelance Journalist, Social Media Manager and interiors... More >

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If you've ever stayed in a ski lodge or watched a Christmas film set in snowy mountains, you'll be familiar with traditional rustic style and its undeniable cosy appeal. However, wall-to-wall timber cladding is a bit full-on for everyday life in the UK, where we need décor that works across the seasons. Modern rustic is a new take on this much-loved look.

Wood is still integral, but the finish is lighter and less shiny. Soft fabrics and hand-crafted pieces take pride of place as always, but pattern is more subdued. Crucially, you don't need a log cabin to get comfortable with this nature-inspired, trans-seasonal style. See if these 10 interiors spark a modern-rustic makeover in your home.

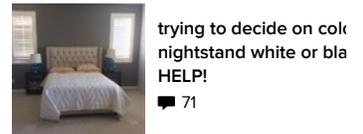
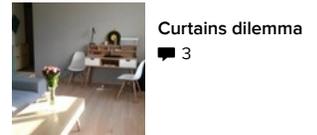


Go back to nature
 When it comes to soft furnishings, natural fabrics such as wool and cotton will help to create a relaxed feel in your living space. Modern-rustic schemes use subdued pattern sparingly against a plain base. Add texture with storage baskets and occasional furniture, such as the woven rattan stool shown here.

Celebrate imperfections
 Embrace the beauty of aged wood by leaving bare floorboards exposed. Try a Scandinavian-style soaped finish instead of varnish to protect boards without changing their appearance.



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Lay wide planks

If you're after the modern-rustic look but your house lacks original wooden floors, get to grips with convenient engineered options. For this laid-back-luxe look you need extra-wide boards, such as those made from Douglas Fir.

See beautiful Douglas Fir in context in a modern eco-kitchen design



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Wesley upholstered modern wood accent Interior Define



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Concentrate on the basics

Make hard-working organic materials such as stone, porcelain, wood and metal the backbone of your design plans. Once you have these key elements in place, display one or two carefully chosen accessories to create a fuss-free space, such as this serene utility room, or add a little more decoration if you prefer a slightly busier scheme.



Source originality

Furniture made from reclaimed wood works well with this pared-back design aesthetic. Modern-rustic style celebrates craftsmanship, so look out for unique, handmade pieces.



Show everyday wares

If you're just looking to add a hint of modern-rustic style, use raw wooden shelves in the kitchen to display your most-used crockery and glassware. Tuck items you use less out of the way inside drawers or cupboards to keep them from getting dusty.



Bring the outside in

Make a feature of chopped wood for the fire by piling logs in an alcove with their sawn-off ends on display. This modern-rustic barn conversion continues the natural theme with a coffee table made from a chunky ash tree and a fur rug to soften the stone floor.

Love linen

Layer linen sheets and plump pillows in soft, washed-out colours to create a calm sleep sanctuary. Pair with an antique wooden table or chair for a suitably modern-rustic bedside set-up.



Meet the panel

This beautiful custom-built bathroom proves that timber can work in an area where water is present – ask your carpenter for recommendations on suitable wood types and finishing treatments. Alternatively, panelling is a quick and easy way to imbue your space with the warmth and texture of wood.

Simplify the study

Free your mind from the distractions of busy décor by installing an all-white home office. Wooden trestles make the base for a stylish desk, while plenty of plants ensure a healthy and inspiring study space.

TELL US...

Do you like this contemporary, rustic look – and how would you describe your style? Let us know or share photos in the Comments below.



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sallyalabaster
 It's almost as if this post was written just for me! I love every one of these images - that bench made from a girder is just to die for! My dining table and desk legs are made from iron (like the below but minus the rivets and powder-coated white) and have reclaimed school science lab iroko table tops (complete with graffiti) and they just have so much character. They are my favourite pieces of furniture!



3 Likes

last Wednesday at 6:55AM



Laura Wheat

@sallyalbaster - I love old school furniture! It's usually too huge for my house though! Thanks for your lovely comment.

1 Like

last Wednesday at 9:30AM



anitasarma

Hi Laura, I love everything of these images. The bed corner table is the special one. Just perfect. But I want to know if the wooden cabinet of bathrome would not be get damp in water?

Like

last Wednesday at 10:46AM



ROVT Design

PRO

@Laura Wheat - Many thanks for your rave comment ! You are absolutely right, we love to mix materials and finitions, to do daring and uncommon decoration furnitures !

@sallyalbaster - Many thanks to you too for your encouraging comment ! The raw iron leg of your table contrats very well with the wood's softness and creates a trendy industrial decoration ! If you are interested in creating surprising industrial decoration, just take a look at this light !

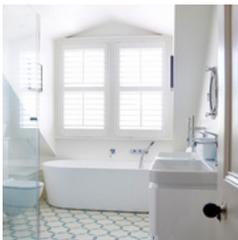


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