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BHG SIP Yellow Checkout

a natural affinity

This tiny, neglected kitchen—once a diamond in the rough—is now a gem.

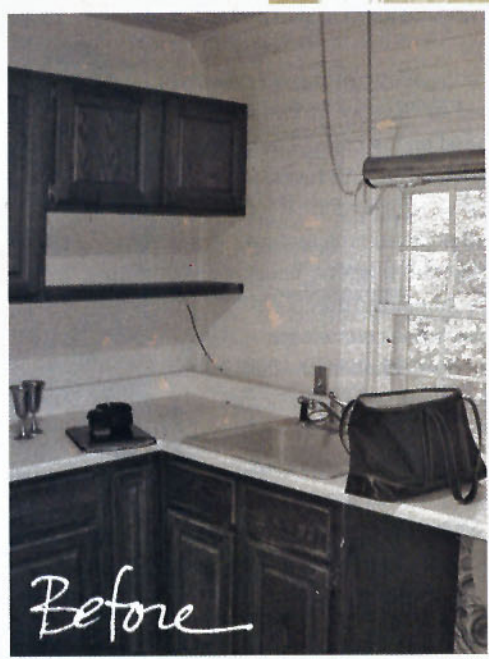
Writer: Rachel Weber
Photographer: Susan Gilmore
Field editor: Chandra Hammond

An awkward floor plan, limited lighting, and asbestos-filled walls were just some of the challenges designers Lola Watson and Suzanne Goodwin faced when they started redesigning this Minnesota lakeside property. The forgotten kitchen was in desperate need of a makeover, and the design duo was willing to put their skills to the test. "We wanted to focus on maximizing space and making it livable while honoring the historic nature of the house as well as the land on which it stands," Watson says.

Working within the original footprint of the small 10×10-foot kitchen, the designers took the room down to the studs and developed a space-saving design for a functional and inviting space. Starting with the basic work triangle, they centered the sink under a pair of windows, allowing plenty of work space on both sides and creating easy access to the sink, range, and refrigerator. "We found a functional, delightful way to make a small space work and that was what we set out to do," Goodwin says.

Then, Watson says, "We built in a lot of storage. We put storage everywhere—in places you wouldn't typically think of putting it." They even utilized as storage narrow space that would normally be filler. And they chose cabinetry with full-extension pull-out drawers and found room for a recycling center and pantry.

The designers recognized the importance of



Open cabinetry above the windows, a salvaged light fixture, and simple window treatments were affordable choices that maintained the original cottage feel.



Small Space Redo

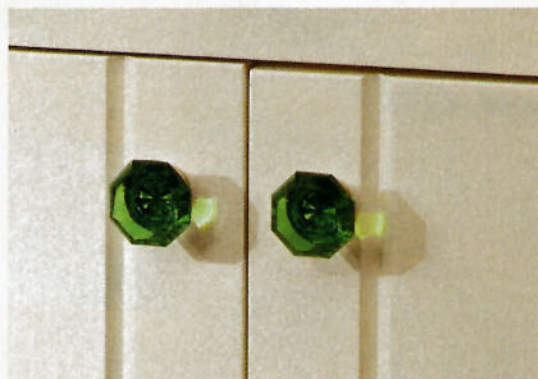
maintaining the character of the cozy space. "We also wanted to honor the history of the house," Watson says. "We were going for a simple, sort of country look."

Open cabinetry above the windows gives the room an airy feel and stays consistent with the home's cottage style, allowing plenty of space to display dishes. Three antique pendant light fixtures, from the Walker Library in downtown Minneapolis, add to the look.

To underscore the lakeside location and make the room feel sunny and bright, the designers chose a subtle light green paint for the kitchen cabinets. "We wanted the undertone to correlate with the surrounding nature," Watson says.

The home sits on a wooded lot, and light reflected from the leaves on the trees works in harmony with the green paint.

"Beyond a canopy of trees, you can see glistening



Stunning green glass cabinet knobs pop against the beaded-board cabinets.

views of Lake Minnetonka," Goodwin says. "It's magical and absolutely beautiful." With light shining in from three directions, this kitchen sparkles from every angle. **sm**

creating cottage style

Here's how you can bring some nostalgic touches to your kitchen.



Vintage-Look Faucet

The Vinnata kitchen sink faucet (\$787), with its high arch, is perfect for washing large pots and pans. With the push of a button, it emits a light spray or powerful stream. Kohler; 800/456-4537; kohler.com



Classic Pendant

The single-light Sussex mini pendant (\$75) reflects a timeless design style and is perfect for illuminating small spaces. Seagull Lighting from Bellacor; 877/723-5522; bellacor.com



Roomy Apron Sink

The Chandler plain-front, double-bowl apron sink (\$1,485-\$1,551 based on color) creates a cottage feel. Made from Dupont Corian, this sturdy sink is designed to withstand the test of time. American Standard; 800/442-1902; americanstandard.com