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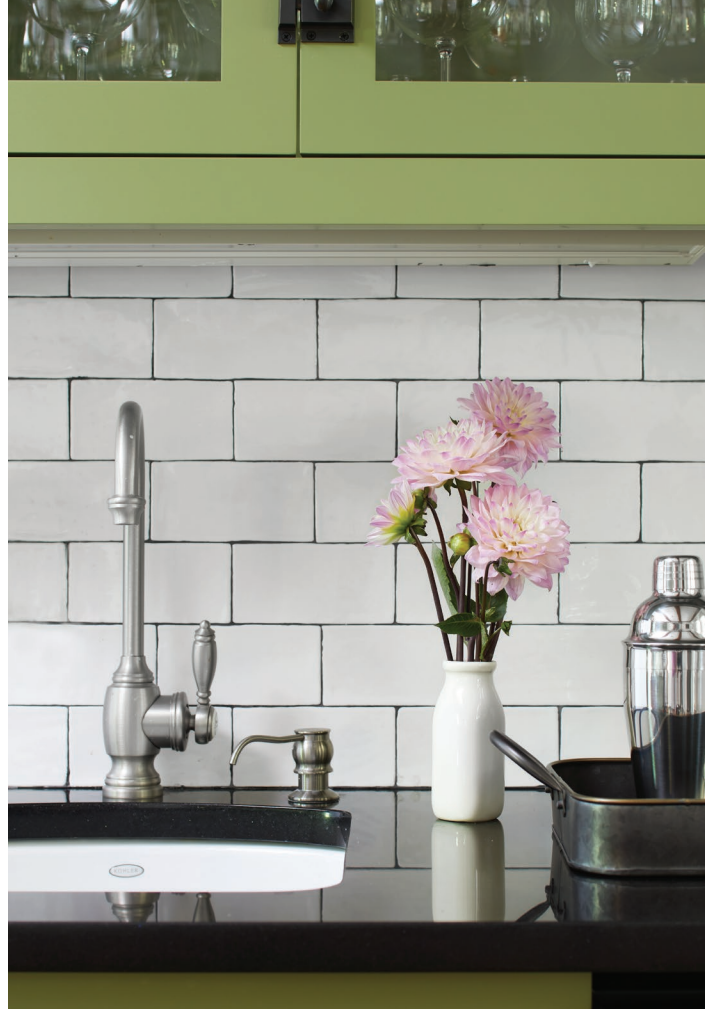
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MEREDITH SPECIALS



VINTAGE SPIRIT

TRADITIONAL CABINETRY AND SALVAGED MATERIALS SHOWCASE THE CLASSIC BEAUTY OF TIMELESS DESIGNS WHILE SMART FUNCTION EASES MODERN LIVING.

colorful OUTLOOK

Elements of
Craftsman style
blend with modern
function and plenty
of color in a kitchen
designed for
entertaining.

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Photographer Laura Moss
Field Editor Lauren Payne





The symmetrical space gets one pleasant interruption from a window seat invented to preserve an original window. "It's turned out to be such a well-loved nook," homeowner Maria DeLuca says. Shaker-style cabinets are painted in Sherwin-Williams Artichoke.

“WHEN YOU SAY ‘GREEN KITCHEN,’ most people look at you funny,” Maria DeLuca says. “They picture 1970s avocado, and it’s a little frightening. No one wants those flashbacks.” But Maria’s brother—architect and builder Rosario Mannino—doesn’t scare easily. “When she said ‘green,’ I thought, *This is awesome*,” Mannino says. “Nothing plain-Jane for Maria!”

The two teamed up to envision a colorful, high-function kitchen for the New Jersey home that Maria shares with husband Mike and their three children. They worked in the footprint of the former dining room—a space left available after the family added on to the 100-year-old home.

For cabinets in the new cooking space and former kitchen, now home to a wet bar and gathering area, brother and sister agreed on an earthy, muted artichoke hue plucked from the home’s exterior columns, where it was used as an accent color. “The house has a 1920s Craftsman feel,” Maria says. “We wanted to bring that vibe into the kitchen.”

Mannino balanced the green cabinetry with period-appropriate white beaded board on the ceiling, a white subway-tile backsplash, black countertops, and swaths of natural wood—quartersawn white oak beams, crown molding, floors, and a furniture-style island.

“Green paired with warm wood and black elements speaks to the Craftsman era,” Maria says. “But we also included modern elements—stainless steel and fresh blues and greens on the Roman shade and cushion fabric. It’s old meets new.”

The kitchen’s good looks combine with a hardworking attitude. “My biggest goal was function,” Maria says. “When I say I cook and I entertain, I mean it—on a large scale. I host all the family birthday parties; I invite my whole Girl Scout troop in. When I have people over to eat, it’s 20, 30, 40 people at a time.”

Mannino was prepared for the challenge. “I always have a conversation with my clients about how they live—design has to fit the lifestyle,” he says. “But here, I already knew my sister and how she wanted to live in her kitchen.”

Expansive personalized storage, pro-style appliances, and a U-shape layout with separate prep, cleanup, and cooking



ABOVE “That stove is not for show,” Maria says. “I really, really use this kitchen.” Subway tile for the backsplash was chosen for its imperfect look—it fits the Craftsman mold with a hand-hewn attitude. **OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT** An apron-front sink paired with a pull-down faucet provides both charm and function. Mannino added the window as part of the renovation, giving the kitchen more natural light and views to the backyard. **OPPOSITE, TOP RIGHT** A second sink in the bar area helps keep guests out of the cooking zone. Architect Rosario Mannino used black grout on the white subway tile for contrast and to tie in with the black countertops. **OPPOSITE BOTTOM** Maria’s cookbooks are always at hand in glass-front cabinets that reduce the visual weight of cabinetry. An undercounter microwave lends modern function and a sleek finish that juxtaposes Craftsman-style door fronts.

zones tick off every need on Maria’s list. “I love how this kitchen works,” she says.

For her brother, the best thing about the project is a rarity in his business: Mannino gets to savor the space he shaped. “I get a lot of compliments from my family at get-togethers, and that makes me proud,” he says. “It’s really special to be able to enjoy something that I created.”

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“SINCE THIS WAS A FAMILY AFFAIR WITH MY BROTHER AS THE ARCHITECT, IT WAS AN INTERESTING PROCESS — NO OPINIONS HELD BACK!”

Maria DeLuca, homeowner