

SPECIAL ISSUE

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This Old House

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white ◀◀

SET THE TONE

White is a unifier that can signal old-fashioned warmth or urban sleekness. It is a perennial favorite because it lightens and expands the sense of space—a coat of white paint can almost single-handedly update a dark or tired kitchen—and it can be restyled with a change of accessories. Here it gives a renovated kitchen in a 1920s home classic style, softened with country accents.

KEY ELEMENTS

- Painted white maple cabinets by Plain & Fancy Custom Cabinetry have characteristics reminiscent of fine furniture: recessed panel doors, elaborate crown moldings, and divided-light glass-front doors.
- Hutch-style floor-to-ceiling cabinets are punctuated with rows of drawers; cabinets above the stove incorporate a plate rack and conceal the vent hood; and cabinet fronts on the refrigerator, dishwasher, and Thermador warming drawer further the impression of finely crafted furniture.
- A backsplash of Ann Sacks white subway tile, Italian sandstone countertops (similar to soapstone but more durable), hardwood floors, a Kohler apron-front, cast-iron farmhouse sink, pendant lights, and period-appropriate hardware all suit the 1920s origins of the house.

SPECIAL FEATURES

- Storage has been carefully incorporated throughout: Next to the fridge, a large pantry holds kitchen staples; slender pull-out shelves near the range store oils and vinegars and make the most of often-wasted space; and pairs of small cabinets placed just below the ceiling stretch storage into every square inch.
- Space in an ell at one end of the kitchen was maximized with a wet bar and a KitchenAid wine cooler; on the wall opposite sits a small desk with storage for home-office files and supplies.
- Since the narrow galley space precluded an island, the design incorporates a peninsula instead, with bar seating and open access to the breakfast area.

