

This Old House

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Opening up for better traffic flow

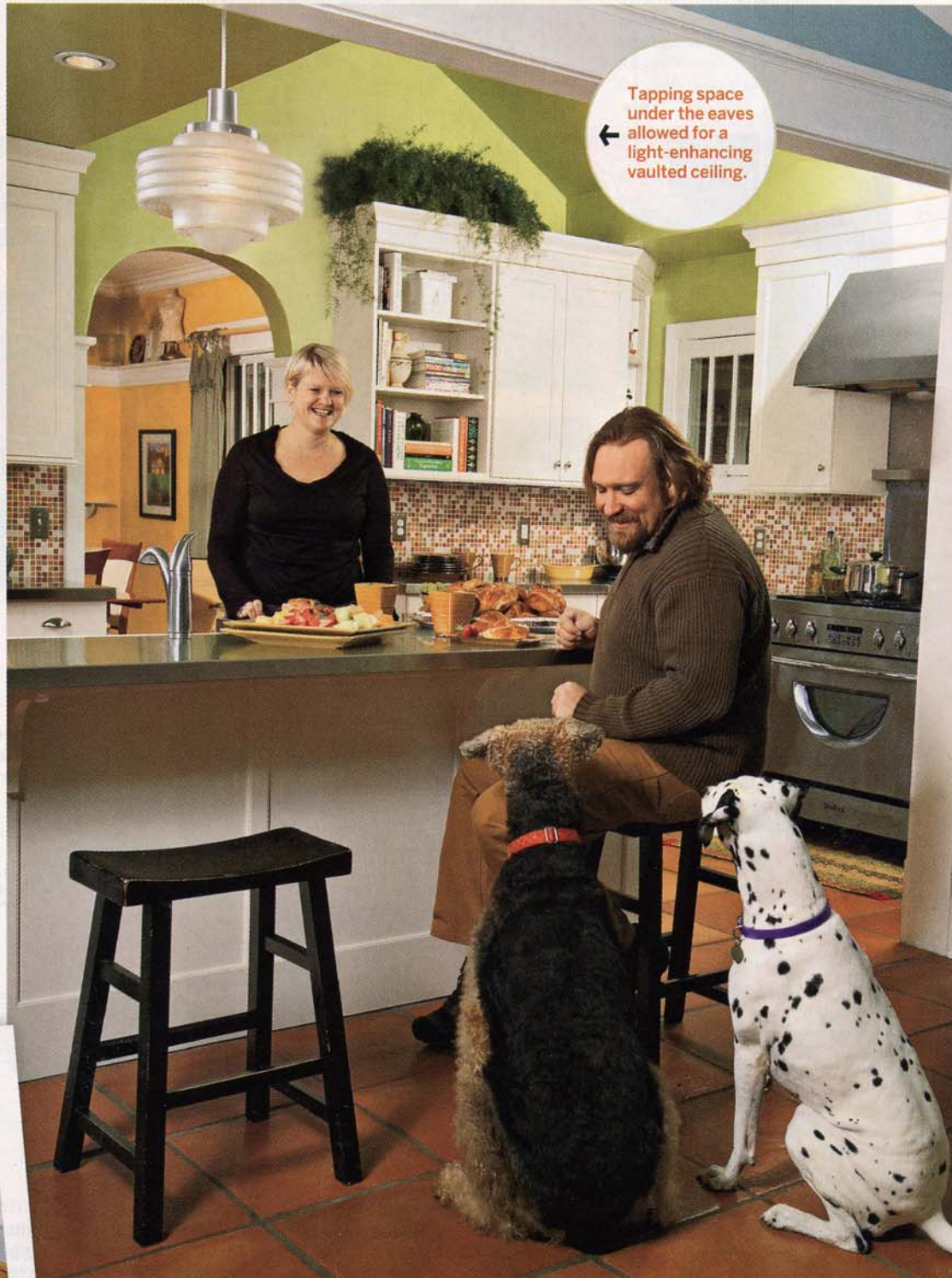
Making connections to the dining and family rooms and annexing a little space here and there righted the wrongs in a narrow galley. Here's how By JILL CONNORS + Photographs by WALT ROYCROFT

Vintage kitchens often end up with a layout that defies logic, and the one in Susan and Chuck Creacy's 1920 bungalow in Lexington, Kentucky, was no exception. A back door invited the couple's dogs to troop in from a small entry porch and settle in front of the fridge. A bedroom door and the front hall led smack into the cooking area, which lacked direct access to the dining room. Gathering in the kitchen with friends and family wasn't really an option. And despite its white walls, "the kitchen was dark and cramped," says Susan.

Working with local kitchen designer Laura Dalzell, the Creacys annexed the back entry porch and a pantry, closed off the bedroom door (it was an extra), and carved out an arched entry to the dining room. Opening up an exterior wall to graft on a family room allowed space to work in an island, too. The finished room has colorful walls and poochproof terra-cotta floors. Today, says Susan, they've got a light, bright kitchen with plenty of room to circulate and hang out, two furry friends included.

before: The main hallway and a bedroom opened onto a galley-style kitchen.

after: Susan and Chuck Creacy and their sidekicks, Guinness and Gilbert, enjoy an upgraded space that now connects to the dining room via a new arched opening.



← Tapping space under the eaves allowed for a light-enhancing vaulted ceiling.



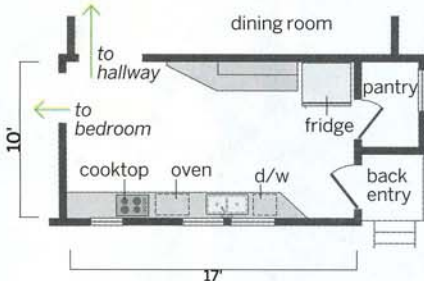
{ before }

PHOTOGRAPHS BY COLETTE GUYARD/CONCEPTS BY JILL CONNORS



before

The 135-square-foot room was poorly laid out, with the fridge and cooktop in opposite corners and no place to gather for quick meals or conversation.



13 island options

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after

Cooking and entertaining became easier with more space, distinct work zones, casual seating, and direct access to the dining room.

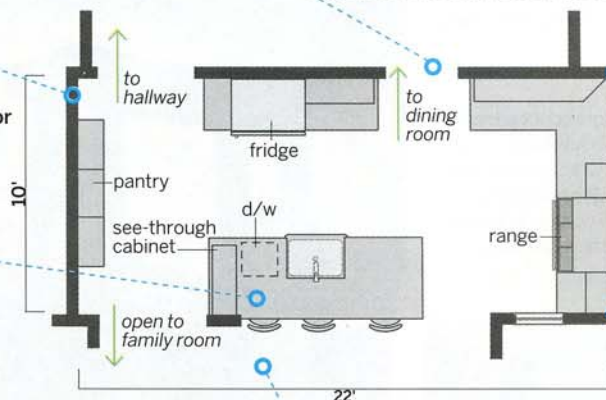
5 Filled in a doorway to create space for a three-cabinet-wide pantry unit.

4 Added an island with a sink and dishwasher to make prep and cleanup a cinch. Seating on the family room side helps keep visitors (snack-seeking dogs included) out of the cook's way.

1 Created an arched opening in the wall between the kitchen and dining room, yielding a direct path from the work zone to the table and a sight line from the front of the house to the back.

2 Gained space by annexing the pantry and back entry porch, adding 50 square feet and creating a home for the range.

3 Removed a wall to open up the kitchen to a new family room, creating just enough space in the kitchen for an island.



Handsome
for a dated

↓ **A farmhouse sink** adds a vintage touch to the cooking space, which has no shortage of modern conveniences. *Sink: Whitehaus Collection. Dishwasher: Bosch*



← **A see-through cabinet** at one end of the island has glass doors front and back to channel light through the kitchen and provide easy-access glassware storage near the dishwasher. *Faucet: Price Pfister. Cabinets: Wood-Mode*

↓ **The arched opening** to the dining room is framed with pilasters to match those in an existing arched opening in the kitchen that leads to the main hall.



↑ **Colorful glass mosaic tile** underscores the room's white, green, gray, and terra-cotta palette. *Tile: Hakatai. Drawer pulls: Top Knobs*



↑ **Earth-toned flooring** grounds the airy space. Easy-care stainless-steel counters replaced crumb-catching tile and coordinate with new pro-style appliances. *Refrigerator: GE. Stools: Garden Ridge. Wall colors: Coronado Paint (custom tints)*



homeowner tip

SUSAN CREACY,
LEXINGTON, KY.

"If you've got pets, sealed terra-cotta floor tiles are a great choice. They're tough, and any scratches or chips that do appear seem like part of their natural, handmade look."

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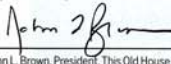
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Cover: Paint: Glidden; 800-454-3336; glidden.com. Stools: Gothic Cabinet Craft; 888-801-3100; gothiccabinetcraft.com. Interior designer: Susan Sargent Designs; susansargent.com.

Checklist: (p. 14) Seal stone countertops: Thanks to Rogerio Teixeira, Teixeira Soapstone, Hackensack, NJ; 201-525-0024; soapstones.com. Clean your gutters: Thanks to Janet Rapp, American Ladder Institute, Chicago, IL; laddersafety.org.

Home News: (p. 16) Thanks to John Drengenberg, Underwriters Laboratories; 877-854-3577; ul.com.



Before + After Kitchen: Opening up for better traffic flow (pp. 25-27): Kitchen designer: Laura Dalzell, Cabinets & Designs, Lexington, KY; 859-253-9002; cabinetsanddesignsky.com. Contractor: D. Craig Rushing, Rc3, Lexington,

KY; 859-983-3222; rc3.us. Cabinets: Andover Recessed Square, Wood-Mode; 877-635-7500; wood-mode.com. Hardware: Bin pulls (M400) and knobs (M370), Top Knobs USA; 800-499-9095; topknobsusa.com. Range and hood: Metro Series (discontinued), Heartland Appliances, part of the AGA Rangemaster group; 877-650-5775; aga-heartland.com. Microwave and refrigerator: GE Appliances; 800-626-2005; geappliances.com. Dishwasher: Bosch Home Appliances; 800-944-2904; bosch-home.com. Stainless-steel counters: Bryant's Sheet Metal Inc., Lexington, KY; 859-255-8662. Backsplash glass tile: (style discontinued) Hakatai Enterprises Inc.; 888-667-2429; hakatai.com. Floor tile: 16-by-16-inch Saltlito tiles, Su Casa; 859-277-1374; sucasatile.com. Stools: Garden Ridge; gardenridge.com. Schoolhouse fixture: 15-inch Art Deco pendant in nickel (149746), Rueff Lighting; 502-583-1617; ruefflighting.com. Paint: Custom color, Coronado Paint; 800-225-5554; coronadopaint.com. Faucet: Price Pfister; 800-732-8238; pricepfister.com.

Before + After Bath: Handsome face-lift

for a dated space (pp. 29-30) Architect: David Roberts, Roberts Architects LTD., Evanston, IL; 847-491-6195; robertsarchitects.com. Cabinetry: Chicago Cabinet & Fixture Co., Bensenville, IL; 630-616-8071; chicagocabinet.net. Carpentry: The Roberts Construction Group Inc., Evanston, IL; 847-491-6195; robertsarchitects.com. Tile and counter installers: Tithof Tile & Marble, Highland Park, IL; 847-831-3444; tithoftile.com. Sconces: Brass Light Gallery; 800-243-9595; brasslight.com. Faucet: Seabury, Grohe; 800-444-7643; groheamerica.com. Sink: Caxton collection, Kohler; 800-456-4537; kohler.com. Wall tile: Meredith Collection; 330-484-1656; meredithtile.com. Floor tile: Durango Stone, World Wide Stone Corp.; 602-438-1001; durangostone.com. Casement windows: Weather Shield; 800-222-2995; weathershield.com.

Get This Look: Colonial-style dining room (pp. 32-33) Architect: Peter Zimmerman, Peter Zimmerman Architects; 610-647-6970; pzarhitects.com. Sconce: 17-inch Candle Holder Sconce with Mirrors, The Tin Bin; 717-569-6210; thetinbin.com. Chandelier: Madison Chandelier with a no-dust rust finish, Tin 'N' Treasures; 717-898-3994; tinn treasures.com. Candlesticks: 1003P Concord candlestick (small) and 1039P Pewter Tidewater candlestick (large), Brass & Silver Traditions; 866-964-3420; brassandsilvertraditions.com. Rug: Momeni Persian Heritage Burgundy rug, CSN Stores; 800-593-5251; csnstores.com. Table: Kipling Extension Dining Table, Crate and Barrel; 800-967-6696; crateandbarrel.com. Chair: New England Fan-Back Windsor Side Chair, Great Windsor Chairs; 800-240-6433; greatwindsorchairs.com. Linens: Rose Tree; 214-637-0010; rose-tree.com. Paint: India Trade interior latex, Finnaren & Haley Paint & Coatings; 800-892-5917; fhpaint.com.



Price Wise: Brass hinges (p. 38) High-end: Baldwin Hardware; 800-566-1986; baldwinhardware.com. Budget: Emtek Products Inc.; 800-356-2741; emtek.com.