

THE This Old House

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BEFORE: The kitchen was new but someone else's vision.
AFTER: White cabinetry and pale-marble countertops make the room feel clean and bright. Mixed materials and varying heights turn the island into a multitasker with two Sub-Zero freezer drawers to the right of its sink.

Problem:
 A kitchen designer's kitchen wasn't efficient—and wasn't her style

Solution:
A fresh look and clever design make a space super-functional. Here's how »

EVER WONDER WHAT A KITCHEN DESIGNER'S dream kitchen looks like? For Carrie Deane Corcoran, it doesn't have the carved-wood cabinets and glossy granite counters seen in so many showrooms. In fact, after moving into her Colonial Revival in New Canaan, Connecticut, she stripped out just such a kitchen to put her stamp on the space. "It didn't reflect me, or the way I cook," says Corcoran, who prefers classic white cabinets with pale-marble countertops, plus convenient drawer storage for everything from bread to blenders. The single sink and midrange appliances weren't optimal, either, for someone who loves to entertain, whether she's hosting a casual buffet, a sit-down dinner, or the occasional catered party.

So after gutting the room and selling its contents to a contractor for \$12,000, Corcoran set about maximizing every inch. She got rid of an awkward center support post by installing a steel beam, freeing up room for a larger island with a sink and seating. She specified pro-grade appliances throughout. Simple white cabinets—warmed up with milk paint—make the lime-green walls really pop. Most important, the cheerful space suits Corcoran's aesthetic and life style. "You don't need the most elaborate kitchen," says the designer, "just the one you feel good in every day."

BY KELLY BEAMON
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