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QUALIFIED REMODELER

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One kitchen, three budgets

Three remodelers challenged to incorporate today's technology with a 1900s sense of style in historic Syracuse, N.Y.

THREE REMODELERS WERE CHALLENGED TO design and specify products for one kitchen – the catch being each remodeler had a different budget to work with – under \$40,000, under \$100,000 and lastly, an unlimited amount of funds. The conclusion being that regardless of monetary issues, one kitchen can turn into a masterpiece at any level.

Each remodeler was given a specific budget, existing floor plan, before photos and a description of what the client requested to complete this project. With this information, the remodelers put their skills to the test to turn this historic kitchen into one with modern flare.

The project

The prestige kitchen was part of a 98-year-old colonial revival home set in the historic section of Syracuse, N.Y. The client fell in love with this home while he relocated back to Syracuse after residing in larger metropolitan areas such as Boston and New York. Getting back to his roots as a native of Upstate New York, the client found the benefits of living in a smaller city more and more appealing.

The objective for this remodel was to transform an inefficient, dated kitchen into a beautiful and functional example of the period. The client requested to blend today's technology with an early 1900s style. Due to the nature of the home's historic background and the restrictions of the neighborhood, all exterior windows, walls and door openings were to remain as is.

The client also requested a wet bar, an eating area for two people in the kitchen, more storage space, a 48-in professional range and a 48-in refrigerator. This posed many challenges for the remodelers, but read on to see how these professionals solved these design challenges.



Bill Simone

CUSTOM DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION

Los Angeles

Designer: **Bill Simone, CGR, president & Dana Jones, CKD**

Budget: \$119,653.00

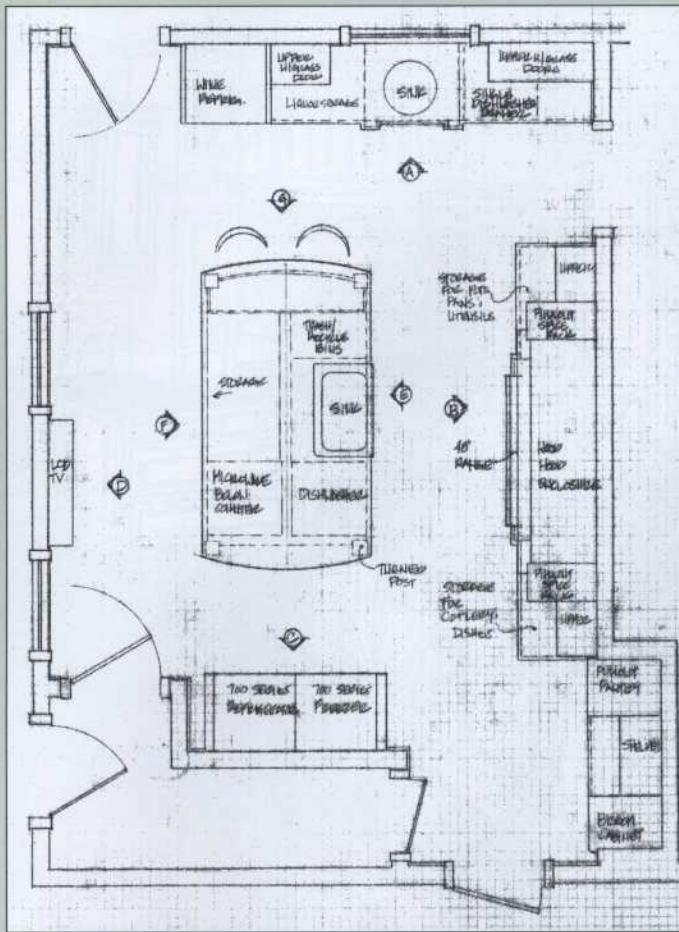
With an unlimited budget, the designers at Los Angeles-based Custom Design & Construction focused on respecting the old colonial style, yet customizing the kitchen to give it a very high-end appeal. Bill Simone and Dana Jones chose to replicate traditional “furniture-style” pieces along with tones and materials appropriate to that period into this kitchen project.

Creating smooth transitions

“The old butler's pantry made a prime location for the new wet bar,” says Jones. “The area was mechanically functional with the existing plumbing readily accessible.”

“We wanted to use as much of the existing space as we could,” adds Simone.

With that in mind, the nonbearing partition walls separating the old service porch and butler's pantry were removed. From there, Jones designed the new kitchen as one large space so the room didn't feel so chopped up. “It really opened the room and



(Above) The team from Custom Design & Construction incorporated individual “furniture-like” pieces into the kitchen remodel. (Below) The nonbearing partition walls separating the old service porch and butler’s pantry were removed to create a large open space between the wet bar and kitchen.

allowed the elegant fixtures to transition smoothly.

“With the unlimited budget, we really wanted to give a real “bar-like atmosphere.” adds Jones. “It allowed us to add luxury products such as the Sub-Zero wine refrigerator and other amenities that help create this atmosphere.”

Kitchen furniture

“In this particular home, it was not important for us to create a smooth flowing layout for the cabinets,” says Jones. “We used short runs of cabinets and thought it was important to

keep the 24-in. jog in the wall because that aspect is very unique to that period.”

Although the jog was a challenge, Simone and Jones used open-wood shelving and beadboard to accent the alcove. “We added a lot of nice storage space in this kitchen with organized pullout shelving to maximize the cabinetry.”

Keeping within the period, the designers integrated “furniture-like” pieces throughout the kitchen. “All of the furniture can individually be put anywhere; however, it was all made to fit in this kitchen,” says Simone.

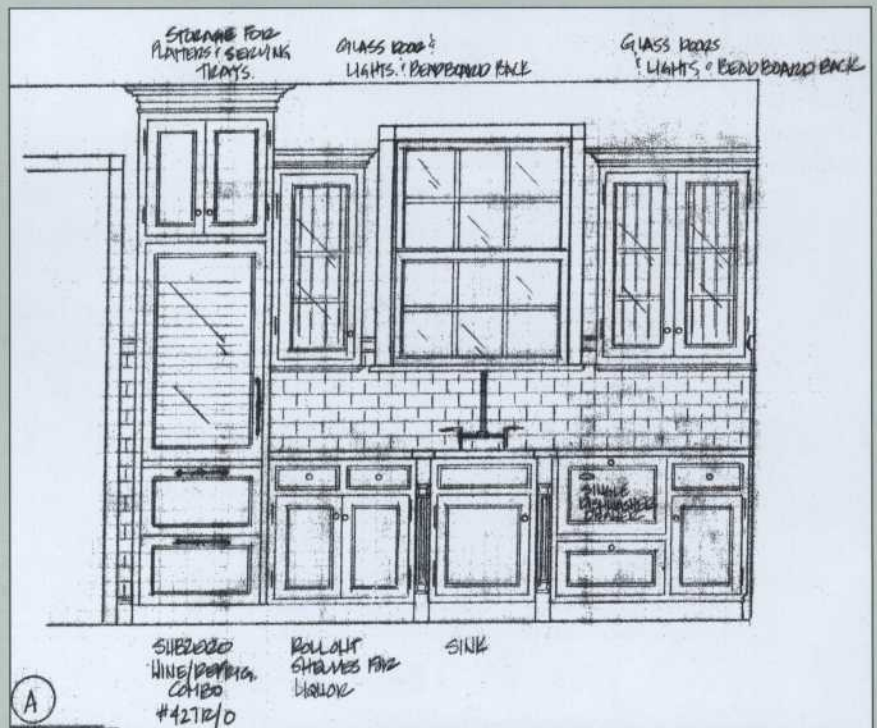
The amoire piece was custom-built to conceal the Sub-Zero side-by-side refrigerator and freezer, notes Simone.

“This piece looks like something that belongs in the living room, but works perfectly in the kitchen for this specific purpose,” says Jones.

Creating an eating area for two people

The island is a multi-functional space, including an eating area, sink and a built-in area for the microwave – built on furniture-style legs.

The eating area can also be used as seating for the wet bar when the homeowners are entertaining. “There is really a nice flow of traffic in this kitchen,” adds Simone.





A rendering of the kitchen layout shows a multi-functional island and short runs of custom cabinetry.

“Especially for a kitchen of this size, the space is very functional.”

“Recently, a lot of our clients are requesting that we incorporate the microwave in the island,” says Jones. “It’s a great location for a built-in microwave as well as a space saver for a smaller kitchen.”

Colonial-revival style

Most of the material used in this remodel is very reminiscent of the colonial-revival home of the 1900s, says Jones. A mantel over the range (typical of the period) was designed in place of the hood vent (typical of today) and “gas-light” wall sconces were added to give the area at the cooking center an old-world look and feel.

“The beadboard over the cooking center and shelves in the cabinetry at the wall

jog help add texture and visual interest to different vertical surfaces along the same wall elevation,” adds Simone.

Simone and Jones selected Benjamin Moore’s Dove Wing semigloss paint for the interior of the kitchen. “All of the colors used are ‘period’ colors and would normally be found in a house in that time frame,” says Simone.

“We also specified select black walnut planking for the finish flooring, a wood that was more upscale than what would typically be found in the 1900s,” notes Jones. “This kept the look of wood, which is typical of homes in that period, yet gives the kitchen a distinct high-end look.” ■

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CUSTOM DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION

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