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use it or lose it

Maximize your budget by minimizing your needs. *By Carrie Behris*

[92] KITCHEN MAKEOVERS Fall 2006

THIS SPACE: Salvaged storage pieces and modern stainless steel create an efficient yet warm kitchen in Carrie Raphael's Victorian home.

OPPOSITE: Stork French doors mark a party frequented by homeowner Carrie Raphael's son Noah, now 6.



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Carrie Raphael would rather leave a space empty and wait to buy higher quality than buy something cheap just to fill the space.



fill up. When was the last time your double-bowl saw the light of day?
 In Carrie Raphael's kitchen, nothing hangs over in the back of someone's mind. Because there are low-by her own choice.

When Carrie, an interior designer, remodeled the kitchen of her Washington, D.C.-area home, she honestly assessed which items she used on a regular basis. Then she put them all close at hand in a kitchen that combines restaurant-style efficiency with country Scandinavian simplicity.

Such a careful inventory, she says, "freed up a lot of space." The kitchen holds only items that get used or rotated out at least biweekly. Broken-use repairment (what little she had) is stored elsewhere in the house. "If you use it only at Thanksgiving, or don't know when you last used it, it doesn't need to be in the immediate kitchen space," she says.

Carrie's approach enabled her to save considerable money on cabinetry, which generally constitutes one of the most expensive components of a kitchen remodel. Not only does less stuff require lower cabinets in which to store it, but the items' frequent use makes open shelving a practical alternative to closed cupboards. Shelving was long enough to gather dust, and everything is right where she can reach it.

Amused shelves also put odd spaces to work. Cade shelves (mounted) between two windows hold

OPPOSITE: Making room for it all comes hand whose former life was as a cupboard in a bakery. At shelf's end, a trio of open shelves keep appetizers and dishes ready to use.

ABOVE: Designer Carrie Raphael stretched her remodeling dollar by acting as her own general contractor.



OPPOSITE: Carrie's everything-at-hand philosophy applies to her children, whose favorite snacks can be found in cartons within their reach.

ABOVE: Constructed by Carrie's husband Charlie from repurposed materials, the three-compartment rolling bin holds fresh vegetables as well as party beverages.

RIGHT: Glass sparkles in the sunshine from nearby windows.

BUDGET Breakdown

The money Carrie Alpha saved through everything-at-hand design, secondhand finds, and DIY labor enabled her to splurge on professional-quality appliances.

STORAGE

• Stainless steel cabinet units	800
• Drawer knobs	53
• Pantry (French doors, cut-glass handles, antique pediment)	64
• Salvaged baker's prep table	1,118
• Hutch shelving (antique)	600
• Cafe shelves	76

REFURBISH & APPLIANCES

• Range	8,000
• Hood	1,800
• Refrigerator	5,900
• Dishwasher	1,200
• Microwave oven	380
• Apron-front sink	1,006
• Faucet	45

WORKTOPS

• Wall paint	70
• Butcher-block countertop	300
• Floor (paint and polyurethane)	100

LABOR

• Electrical	2,000
• Plumbing	700
• Range installation	1,500

MISCELLANEOUS

• Baskets	48
• Bench (antique)	800
• Chandelier plus rewiring	198
• Slat fabric	80
• Stained wood (antique)	20

TOTAL	\$28,253
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...to prep and snacks. Pots and pans rest on open shelves behind fabric skirts that can be changed with the seasons. Repurposed shelving flanks an antique brick chimney Carrie and her husband, Charlie, discovered hidden behind drywall when they gutted the room. They used stock French doors, party fabric panels, and a pediment to transform part of the shallow space into a spacious pantry. Rows of glass jars keep kitchen essentials within arm's reach.

Secondhand finds enabled Carrie to save even more money while also meeting another remodeling goal: Make the room appear to belong in the 1882 Gothic Victorian farmhouse and undo the effects of a short 1970s laminate-and-linoleum update that she and "dad" stripped the kitchen of all its charm.

She procured and rewired an authentic 1800s chandelier with faux candles and real brass. In a fashion of what a new reproduction would have cost, it gladdies in the center of the space. ("My kitchen isn't busy, but it's fun to have a chandelier there."

she says.) An antique hutch from an old country store displays Carrie's everyday dishes and storage treasures, many of which were chipped when she purchased them, so they give her a great big look for a small amount of money.

A galvanized-steel prep table salvaged from a Westgrove factory serves as her work island. She and Charlie sanded, finished, and applied mineral oil to its table-top, but otherwise let the piece retain an aged appeal. It holds everything from baking sheets to recyclable bags, and a big pull-out tub serves food for their dogs, Masey and Lucy.

Though the farmhouse sink and wall-mount faucet are new, they sport an old-fashioned look that balances with other elements. Carrie chose professional-grade dishwasher appliances, and the room's few natural items were purchased online through a niche web supply store. The metal shaker bowl (which lived in with the appliances) isn't formal, but could be used as a breakfast nook.

Make Pine Floors Shine

Carrie Raphael kept her original pine floor in all its scuffed glory. "It adds character," she says, "here's how she added a herringbone pattern. Plan on five days to allow time to dry between steps."



DIY TIP
For an easier option, paint the floor one color. "You don't even have to seal it," she says. "Each paint can be sanded and sanded some of the original comes when it starts to wear. Repeat steps—you can change colors to match the updated floor."

1. Sand the floor

Sand enough to obtain a clean surface. Wipe clean, apply primer. As with all products listed here, check package for drying time.

2. Apply paints

Apply a base coat of porch paint.

3. Plan your pattern

Take out a diamond pattern and pare every other one a second color. Carrie used a tone-on-tone scheme accented with ice-blue dots at the connecting points.

4. Brush on glaze

Choose a beige or brown glaze to add the look of age.

5. Coat with polyurethane

Protect your work by brushing on clear polyurethane.

OPPOSITE: Baskets beneath the period bench in the breakfast room hold writers, schoolbooks, and art supplies. Pastel paint and floral fabrics raise the kitchen's pretty presence.

LEFT: A painted pattern freshens up the original floor.

The room features additional inexpensive, hard-working storage solutions. Baskets beneath the bench in the dining area enable children, friends and hosts to organize their belongings. A rolling vegetable bin below the table achieves maximum use of space beside a baseboard heater that otherwise would have gone unused.

Charlie constructed the simple wood box. "We got so many compliments on it, and it took him only about two hours to build," Carrie says. In traditional families, some from the local home center's garage section—a great place to find classic hardware at bargain prices, Carrie says.

At 15x15 feet, the kitchen isn't huge, but everything the Echo team has a place. The room blends in with the house. And it suits the family perfectly. ■

RESOURCES begin on page X06.

floor plan



"Be very organized when subbing—you can save money by having the plumber come once instead of three times."

(Homeowner: Carrie Raphael)

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