

STYLE WATCH



The Best Is History

A KITCHEN IN NEWPORT PUTS FORTH A FRESH INTERPRETATION OF ORIGINAL 19TH-CENTURY DETAILS.

BY MARNI ELYSE KATZ

When a Gilded Age estate on Newport Harbor was converted to condos, the developers preserved the carved mahogany paneling and 19th-century tapestry in what is now the great room of this unit. What they didn't touch? The kitchen. The buyers brought in Jillian Burke of Jillian Burke Design to turn the small, oddly shaped space into a highly functional highlight. "The couple fell in love with the history and fun of Newport when visiting a friend," Burke says. "They were really drawn to the historic aspect of the condo." In devising the scheme, Burke played off the home's sumptuous details, which included enhancing the room's architecture. "We added coffers to the flat ceiling for dimension," she says. "It speaks to the original tracery ceiling in the adjacent great room."

1 Although the team gutted the kitchen, the layout remains, with the long, solid wall packed with function. Burke increased storage by pulling the new **cabinetry**, made by Jutras Woodworking, to the ceiling. The owners' love of antiquing inspired the china cabinet, done in walnut as an ode to the home's original mahogany elements.

2 The owners were intent on **wallpaper** after the team uncovered old paper on the ceiling of a bathroom. Burke paired Sandberg's stylized tree pattern with Benjamin Moore's High Park paint to echo the pastoral tapestry in the great room.

3 Visual Comfort & Co. **pendants**, an update of Victorian gas-lit globe lights, are hung high so as not to block natural light or the view of the Claiborne Pell Bridge.

Sconces help brighten a dark corner.

4 Burke explored squaring off the room, but when venting the **hood** elsewhere proved too challenging, she turned the area into a focal point. The showpiece range hood has an off-white finish with visible brushstrokes and satin brass accents.

5 Vermont Danby **marble** swirls through the space, melding with the wallpaper rather than reading as blank expanses. The island's walnut apron and slender turned legs lend a furniture-like feel, while hardware by Water Street Brass enriches the fridge and drawers under the cooktop.

6 The rush seat backs of the Palacek **stools** are historically accurate and feel symbiotic with the Anna French gingham upholstery on the cushions.