



After 15 years in their 70-year-old brick-and-stone Tudor, Dawn and Jim Christensen decided to renovate their dated kitchen. The caveat for their architect, John Wind of Piper-Wind Architects, and their interior designer, Kurt Knapstein, was that they wanted the kitchen to feel as though it has always been there. "We didn't want the kitchen to take away from the history of the house," Dawn says. The result gives them a kitchen with all the modern bells and whistles (Wolf range, Sub-Zero refrigerator, Bosch dishwasher), but the traditional character of the rest of the home. Knapstein helped Dawn select the painted and glazed finish of the custom cabinets crafted by Quality Wood Products. Honed Labrador granite is used on most of the countertops, but a bolder Toscano Antigua granite tops the glazed cherry wood island. Subway tiles from Steve Knox Gallery climb the backsplash and wrap around the kitchen window. Upper cabinets are glass-paned because "I think it makes the kitchen more open, yet true to the period," Dawn says. Traditional, but with a twist.







Tradition with a Twist. When Chad and Susie Wollard bought this Ward Parkway-area brick colonial home, they knew the kitchen was a complete redo. Susie also had a general idea of what her ideal kitchen looked like. “I knew I wanted a cheery, white, bright traditional kitchen,” Susie says. On the recommendation of a friend, she called on designer Kurt Knapstein of Knapstein Design to execute her vision. The result fulfills all her expectations.

“I wanted it to be a hangout for the kids,” Susie says of the commodious kitchen. With four children, ages 6, 5, 3 and a 1-year-old, it had to be family friendly. “It’s an active kitchen,” she says. The elegant walnut-topped island is “kind of like a big table in the middle of the room. The kids can gather at the island and do their homework.”

Just because it works hard doesn’t mean it’s not beautiful too. In addition to the walnut countertop on the island, honed Calacatta gold marble tops all the surrounding counters. The same marble in beveled subway tiles is set in a herringbone pattern behind the six-burner stainless-steel Wolf range and in a running



brick pattern for the rest of the backspash. The custom, traditional, white cabinetry is used throughout the kitchen and in the butler’s pantry too. Pretty details take it up a notch. “I’m really fond of that grass-green color,” Susie says. “And I knew I wanted to use it someplace in the house.” When Knapstein found the striped-patterned Brunschwig & Fils wallpaper and suggested they add that pop of her favorite color to the kitchen, she quickly agreed. Susie’s collection of classic blue-and-white china is the perfect final touch.

“The kitchen fits the house, but it also fits the family’s lifestyle,” says Knapstein.

[Sourcebook on page 138](#)