

**Problem:**

# Drab and Inefficient

**Solution:**

# Bring It Up to Date

*A skilled redesign introduces modern convenience while retaining historic appeal*

**I**N THE KITCHENS OF THE '90s, THE EQUIPMENT WE choose frequently dazzles us with its high-tech capabilities. But the layouts often remain old-fashioned: Too small, dark, and poorly laid out for the needs of most families. The three kitchens in this section once suffered from all of these ailments. But, thanks to innovative problem solving, they are now splendid spaces for a variety of occasions. New Jersey homeowners Donna and Gary Korkala, for example, found their kitchen too cramped for their needs. Luckily, an 1830s clapboard addition at the back of their 1790s stone house was exempt from landmark designation. Designer Sally Ross, of Montclair, N. J., bumped out the back to nearly double the space: A 12'x16' addition holds the new kitchen, while the dining area now occupies the former kitchen.

**The kitchen seamlessly combines current conveniences, such as the 48"-wide restaurant-style range, with a host of period details.**

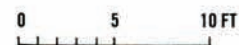
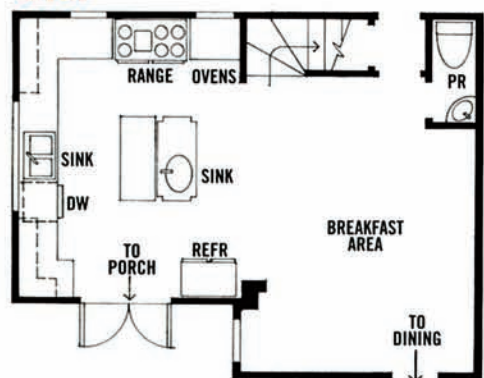
*In a functional, contemporary setting, there is still space for all the traditional trimmings*



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**



DRAWINGS BY JON BRYANT

**Much to the owners' delight, this kitchen is vintage only in appearance. Unlike the turn-of-the-century kitchens it resembles, it has ample workspace thanks to a bi-level island, above. It is also replete with storage, which includes a plate rack, right, and an antique armoire, above right. The designer nearly doubled the size of the room by bumping out the back (see plans).**

# Up to Date



**T**HE OWNER WANTED A WORKING kitchen, but not a room full of 'boxes,' recalls designer Sally Ross. "She wanted it to seem furnished and comfortable—even a bit romantic." So the high-performance appliances are complemented by period details. Separating the work and cleanup zones from the dining area is a thoroughly modern two-tiered island with a second sink. Standard base cabinets support a lower than standard 34"-high work counter. The other half of the island, which evokes a turned-leg farmhouse table, is 38" high. The custom heights perfectly suit the petite owner and her tall husband. Creamy cabinetry and fretwork maintain the heritage of the room. "Since the wife collects antiques," says Ross, "we included lots of display space and open storage." Such historical grace notes harmonize with the architecture of the house and place the up-to-the-minute amenities in a congenial context.