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Everything and the Kitchen Sink

*On the verge of a cross-country move,
a Connecticut couple dreams of taking
their new kitchen with them.*

PACKING UP THEIR STAMFORD, Connecticut, home for their move to Oregon, Margaret and Keith Baldwin feel the urge to take not just the kitchen sink, but the whole kitchen.

The couple loves the 1855 home where they've spent the past 20 years, but it's their spacious new kitchen they'll miss the most. They'll miss the large cherry island topped with golden-toned granite and the tumbled-limestone backsplash they chose to

A corner cabinet built of stained cherry lends warmth to the light walls and cabinetry. The piece sits opposite the back door and holds boots and jackets as well as kitchen items that aren't used every day. When homeowners Margaret and Keith Baldwin sit down for a meal for two, they can choose either the bar or the small kitchen table.

by STACY KUNSTEL
photography JOHN GRUEN

A custom-designed wood ventilation hood blends seamlessly with the adjacent cabinets. The hood was encased so as to not overwhelm the traditional space with too much stainless steel. "It's softened this way," says kitchen designer Nick Geragi.



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"One of the challenges in replacing a kitchen in an older home is that when you see new stuff, it stands out like a sore thumb." Nick Geragi

complement it. They'll miss the brightness of the painted cabinets, the faux-finished walls, and the decorative tiles above the range and the cleanup sink.

This beautiful space is a far cry from the one the couple lived with while putting six kids through college. "The kitchen was just half this size," says Keith. Before, dark cabinets and ceiling beams sucked the light out of the room. A white Formica peninsula and a ventilation hood hanging in the center of the kitchen split the area in two.

While the Baldwins wanted their kitchen to be bigger, brighter, and more open, it was kitchen designer Nick Geragi's job to make sure it fit seamlessly



A substantial brushed-nickel handle gives the Baldwins extra leverage and a comfortable grip when opening the refrigerator. "Hardware is the kitchen's accessory," says Nick. "It's the handbag, the jewelry."

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Resources

Kitchen designer:

Nick Geragi for Klaff's,
South Norwalk, CT.
203-866-1603.
klaffs.com

Backsplash tile: Limestone
with Klaff's custom mosaic.

Cabinets: Kahle's Kitchens,
Inc. 814-744-9388.
kahles.com

Countertop: Madura Gold
granite.

Dishwasher: Meile. 800-
843-7231. meile.com

Faucets: Rohl. 714-557-
1933. rohlhome.com

Flooring: 2¼-inch
oak strip.

Light fixtures: Klaff's. 203-
866-1603. klaffs.com

**Microwave and wall
oven:** General Electric.

800-626-2005. ge.com

Range: Garland. 800-424-
2411. garland-group.com

Refrigerator: Sub-Zero. 800-
222-7820. subzero.com

Sinks: Blanco America.
800-451-5782. blanco
america.com

Two built-in cabinets made of cherry occupy opposite corners of the kitchen and look like sleek armoires. Because the Baldwins lost a lot of cabinet space to windows, Nick designed the pieces especially for storage: One acts as a pantry and the other holds coats, boots, and seldom-used kitchen items.

Now that the Baldwins are ready to join family in the Northwest, there's one decision they're not going to have to make: Margaret and Keith are building in their new house the same kitchen they are leaving behind.

"We did it once and loved it," says Margaret. "Why not do it again?" ★



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