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House Beautiful

INCREDIBLE RENOVATIONS

Design Alchemy
created this
light-filled
conservatory
for Whole
Home 2023.
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A Historic MANSION P. 96

A Brooklyn BROWNSTONE P. 80

A Rural FARMHOUSE P. 102



ROOM WITH A VIEW

Making the most of the architectural features in the home's studio apartment, designer Jenna Gross added bold colors, plush fabrics, and easy-living upgrades to show this space in a whole new light.

Wallpaper:

Brunschwig & Fils.

Lamp: Visual Comfort & Co.

Chaise: Coley Home.

There's an allure that comes with a historic home.

It's a certain mystique that springs from the stories it holds, something not readily found in new builds. Architectural details, unrivaled molding, hardwood doors, and wood-burning fireplaces draw us in. But there's a cold, hard reality that comes with a century-old abode—outdated electrical systems, windowless rooms, walls that a single nail can crumble. Fixing those defects can be overwhelming but totally worth it.

For *House Beautiful's* **Sixth Annual Whole Home**, the editors went all in, heading to the beautiful, 150-year-old village of Hinsdale, Illinois. There, we partnered with Julie Laux (the most fashionable builder we've ever met) and her build-design team, **J. Jordan Homes**, to renovate a 13,000-square-foot David Adler estate dating to 1906. An early 20th-century architect, Adler was renowned for his traditionalist work in and around Chicago, and many of his homes still remain. This particular house stands as a neighborhood gem, so a large part of the mission was preservation.

With a focus on honoring the home's legacy while updating it for today, 13 design teams from around the country—each woman-led—took on a space. There were mandates like “Make it work” and “No, you cannot demo that!” And the result is a home with **an abundance of color-filled lounge spaces for IRL catch-up conversations** and a decidedly *noticeable* focus on cocktail hour. If *Whole Home* is trend forecasting for 2024, the prediction seems to be that everyone wants a bit of a break and a martini!

Joking aside, the finished project offers a fresh perspective on working within an existing blueprint rather than starting from scratch. The designers found clever work-arounds for complicated issues, such as turning dated structural columns into must-have features and using battery-operated bulbs where electricity didn't exist. It all goes to show that, whether a home is brand-new or steeped in history, if you treat it with care, the future will always look bright. ■



KITCHEN

McCroskey Interiors
@mccroskeyinteriors

THE ORIGINAL: This tiny, closed-off space had tile countertops and an impractical pantry.

THE UPGRADE: What to do when a kitchen seems claustrophobic? Expand it! Of all the spaces in the massive old home, this was **the only one that got a full-scale gut renovation.** According to designers Laura McCroskey and Leann Lynn of McCroskey Interiors, this was necessary to make the room work for a family today. McCroskey sought to "open up the entire space so people can be milling about and not be underfoot while you're cooking." First to go were two walls: one that separated a massive walk-in pantry (which, ironically, had very little shelving) and another that blocked off the window-filled hallway. Demolishing them doubled the size of the kitchen, brought in natural light, and made every wall available for storage solutions. The designers added two showstopping islands and a "sliding" back-splash that opens to reveal ample shelves, and they partnered with O'Brien Harris to create custom cabinetry throughout. The user-friendly kitchen is now bright, airy, and welcoming.

FOCAL POINT

A Gothic arch elsewhere in the home inspired this more-subdued version, which frames a backsplash of Calacatta turquoise antique marble with veining in plum and gold. **Paint:** Pointing, [Farrow & Ball](#).



Instead of eliminating the existing enclosed pantry, the designers simply opened it up.



COOKING ZONE

A double sink opposite the **Monogram** 48-inch **Professional Range** makes dinner prep manageable, while cubbies on either side of the cooking alcove offer additional storage within easy reach. **Paint:** Studio Green (cabinetry), Farrow & Ball.



HIDDEN HELPERS

Behind the range, sliding Calacatta panels reveal a countertop-level pantry for often-used items, such as spices and linens. **Tabletop, cookware, and pantry items:** Williams Sonoma.



REFERENCE POINT

Design firm **O'Brien Harris** added a brass strip to the top of this bespoke **cabinetry** panel to indicate which door conceals the **Monogram** dishwasher (and to fill the gap below the island top).

BAR AREA

This secondary prep station holds undercounter **fridges** for wine and extra food, and serves as a spot where guests can enjoy happy hour while chatting with the chef—out of the way of the primary cooking area. The **Forge** ice press makes crystal clear ice spheres for perfect cocktails. **Appliances:** Monogram. **Stone:** Calia Stone.



“The European feel of this home is so unique and rich, with a bit of quirkiness. We knew we could not do a typical kitchen.”

Leann Lynn



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