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May / June 2023

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A New Kitchen, Inspired by History (and a Magazine)

A Del Ray couple modernized their kitchen with a nod to the home's historic aesthetic.

BY BETH LAWTON

PHOTOS BY ROBERT RADIFERA PHOTOGRAPHY



BEFORE



AFTER



Keeping the historic elements of a home while modernizing it for today's living is a challenge — but with inspiration from a contemporary magazine and historic salvaged wood, a Del Ray couple managed to pull it off.

Tony Cerveny and Amy Marino worked with Aiden Design, taking some inspiration from another Aiden Design kitchen in the Barnaby Woods (D.C.) neighborhood they saw in a local magazine.

The couple had been living in Old Town for years, but they sought a bit more space without sacrificing their pedestrian lifestyle. They'd made an offer on an Old Town North property, but it wasn't meant to be. Not long after their disappointment, they were introduced to a charming 100-year-old cottage in cozy Del Ray. It was love at first sight, even before they discovered the 2012 addition in the back with floor-to-ceiling windows and a loft-like feel.

The house officially became theirs in October 2019, and began a series of weekend projects that gradually made it feel like home, including new paint, new windows, a new front porch and extensive landscaping with 21 new trees. By January 2019, the owners were ready to tackle the orange kitchen and tapped Aidan Design to help transform the space in the 1921 home.

The couple was drawn to the architectural grills used in the dining space of Aidan Design's Barnaby Woods project. But rather than a separate dining room, a cocktail lounge most suited the couple. The moody space conveys a speakeasy vibe and offers an optimal place for an after-work libation and conversation.

In the renovated kitchen, the couple called upon their new friends — the previous owners — to provide more salvaged wood to match the open staircase, a rescued relic of George Washington's family warehouse

in Old Town. The hand-hewn open shelving complements the roughly textured glazed tile that adorns the kitchen walls and breakfast bar.

"We were able to honor the spirit of this home by making small but significant changes that focused on simplicity and craftsmanship," Amy said.

"The spaces are much more inviting and integrated, thanks to Aidan's help," Tony added. "We enjoy each historic room rather than pass through them to get to the modern living area."

The cabinets feature a Wood-Mode Colony full-overlay door style in Matte Eclipse on maple in the kitchen and Navy in the lounge area. The counters are Primordia from Caesarstone. The renovated kitchen also includes a farmhouse-style sink and plenty of storage to stash kitchen essentials.

There are two original bedrooms and a bathroom in the historic part of the home. A cozy sitting area and fireplace greet visitors and frequent overnight guests.

The couple's primary bedroom and bath, which they plan to renovate this year, span the top floor with views of their green roof and the Masonic Temple. A lower level with high ceilings, abundant light, and polished concrete floors offers two separate office spaces for the couple who work from home many days.

Tony and Amy adopted the previous owners' vintage Shasta trailer, parked in the lush backyard. It serves as an outdoor party accessory and a favorite spot for their dog Feta and her canine pals to gather.

The couple, who love to entertain, look forward to the pandemic-belated 100-year-anniversary party for their home once their many trees begin to bloom. 🌸



DEL RAY RESIDENTS TONY CERVENY AND AMY MARINO ENJOY THEIR RENOVATED HOME.