

AOL ORIGINAL

A Kitchen Makeover That Recalls the Past

by [Laura Fenton](#), Posted Dec 2nd 2010 11:08AM



[Like](#) 11

A Chicago designer's kitchen makeover brings the room into the present day with classic bones, confident mixing and a little bit of fun.

When Rebekah Zaveloff, principal designer to kitchen design firm [KitchenLab](#), was enlisted to rehabilitate the kitchen of her client's Chicago home, the space was in a sorry state. While the rest of the house had been left relatively untouched with original custom-milled trim around the doors and oak strip flooring throughout, the kitchen was stuck with an ugly 1970s renovation.



Advertisement

Share your art [f](#)

Follow Us



Newsletter



Facebook



Twitter



RSS

What's Hot

1

[What a Mess Location Says About You](#)

2

[Decoding Strange Fabric Care Labels](#)

Zaveloff and her client wanted to bring the kitchen up to the present, but they still wanted it to fit into the home's Victorian charm. "The challenge was to bring the detailing and the style of a period kitchen without taking itself too seriously," says Zaveloff. The finished results feature white subway tiles, industrial light fixtures and vintage details appropriate to the home's age.

With nearly 16-foot high ceilings, Zaveloff was particularly careful not to go overboard. "If we'd gone too glam or too Victorian, it would have been too much," says Zaveloff. "We really tried to restrain and go more humble, more industrial."



Carrara marble, a relatively affordable stone, tops the counters and island. Photo: KitchenLab

The first step in the renovation was to create a more functional space by taking down the wall to the butler's pantry and reorienting the entrance to the mudroom. These two structural spaces made the kitchen slightly larger and also made it fit in more naturally with the rest of the house.

A self-described "tile nut," Zaveloff and her client were inspired to tile to the ceiling by a local Italian restaurant that made grand use of white subway tile in its design. Zaveloff notes that the effect of running the tile all the way to the ceiling is actually similar to the way that these iconic tiles are used in subway tunnels. Love the look? White subway tiles are an affordable option -- so go ahead and tile high in your own home.

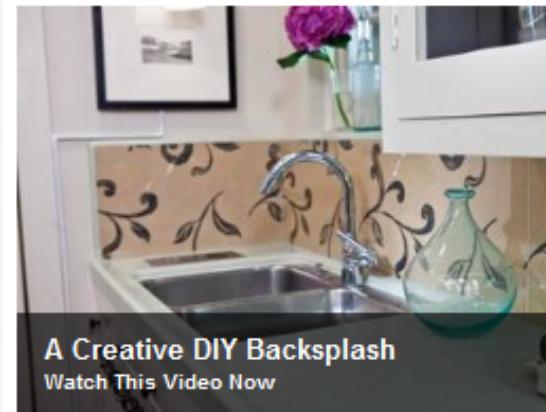
When it came to finishes, Zaveloff was deliberate in her choices of hand-rubbed brass and oiled bronze. "I didn't want the kitchen to be too sweet," she says. "If all the hardware was polished nickel -- it would be a very different look. Even if you're not planning a full kitchen re-do, new hardware can refresh your kitchen's look."

While one wall features two windows and no cabinetry, the wall next to it is built-in with ample storage. The design of which harkens back to the original butler's pantry. "We treated it more hutch-like with the glass fronts," says Zaveloff, who is a big fan of open shelving and glass-fronted wall

More Hot Topics

[News](#) • [How Tos](#) • [Design Drools](#) • [Personal Essays](#)
[Latest Trends](#) • [Going Green](#) • [Shopping](#) • [Videos](#)

Home Decor Videos



A Creative DIY Backsplash

[Watch This Video Now](#)



Window Treatment Ideas

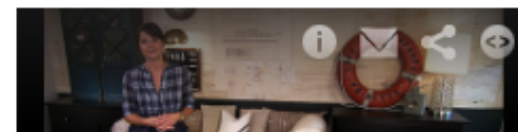
When searching for window treatments, you have to consider how much light -- and how much privacy -- you need in the room. Here are three great ideas for balancing your needs and bringing in some style.



Kitchen Design Ideas

Get a semi-custom kitchen with these easy, fun ideas. Small touches can make things look like new in no time!

Featured Video



In the breakfast nook, a farmhouse table, mismatched chairs and soft Roman shades give the space a laidback feel. An antique hutch provides additional storage. Photo: KitchenLab

Zaveloff and the homeowner also took great pains to make sure there were vintage elements in the space to give it texture. "You can't fake some patinas," cautions Zaveloff, who sourced vintage Victorian tiles for the desk area and an antique table for the island. "It creates that feeling of always having been there," says Zaveloff.

Industrial touches keep the space from seeing too sweet. The lights are detailed reproductions from Circa Lighting while the drawer pulls are sash pulls for windows that were originally meant for an industrial application, not a home. Don't be afraid to incorporate a little toughness into your own design for contrast.



Get the look of with these materials and products. Photos: See below.

Love the style of this classic kitchen? Get the look with these products:

Clockwise from top left: [American Olean 3" x 6" Designer White Ceramic Tile](#), \$55 for 100, Lowe's; [Marian 6 Ceiling Mount Light](#), \$125, Schoolhouse Electric; [Barn Light Bermuda Pendant](#), \$107, Barn Light Electric; [Shaws Original Fireclay Single Bowl Kitchen or Prep Sink](#), Rohl; [Mid-Century Studio Stool](#), \$245, Sundance; [Simplex Chrome Whistling Tea Kettle](#), \$120, Sur La Table.

More kitchen inspiration is just a click away:

- [A \\$500 Kitchen Makeover](#)
- [Kitchen Trends You Should Avoid](#)
- [A Small Kitchen Gets Storage](#)

- [Curbed](#)
- [Fox News Home & Garden](#)
- [Houzz](#)
- [If It's Hip, It's Here](#)

Sponsored Links

[Botox Doctors Are Furious](#)

Mom Reveals Clever \$4 Wrinkle Therapy That Makes BOTOX Doctors Furious
[TheHigherLifestyle.com](#)

[Map Your Flood Risk](#)

Find Floodplan Maps, Facts, FAQs, Your Flood Risk Profile and More!
[www.floodsmart.gov](#)

[1 Trick to Relieve Joints](#)

See how you can relieve your joints with this fast and easy trick...
[EverydayLifestyles.com](#)

[Buy a link here](#)

While one wall features two windows and no cabinetry, the wall next to it is built-in with ample storage. The design of which harkens back to the original butler's pantry. "We treated it more hutch-like with the glass fronts," says Zaveloff, who is a big fan of open shelving and glass-fronted wall cabinets. The backs of the cabinets are papered with [Farrow & Ball's Silvergate wallpaper](#) -- an easy trick to copy.

While this kitchen was custom built, Zaveloff encourages homeowners with existing wood cabinets to break out some paint and brushes to refresh their cabinets. "You may want to wait to remodel, but that day can be so far away," says Zaveloff. "Rather than living in a space you can't stand, why not try painting and putting effort into it?"



In the breakfast nook, a farmhouse table, mismatched chairs and soft Roman shades give the space a laidback feel. An antique hutch provides additional storage. Photo: KitchenLab

Zaveloff and the homeowner also took great pains to make sure there were vintage elements in the space to give it texture. "You can't fake some patinas," cautions Zaveloff, who sourced vintage Victorian tiles for the desk area and an antique table for the island. "It creates that feeling of always having been there," says Zaveloff.

Industrial touches keep the space from seeing too sweet. The lights are detailed reproductions from Circa Lighting while the drawer pulls are sash pulls for windows that were originally meant for an industrial application, not a home. Don't be afraid to incorporate a little toughness into your own design for contrast.



Sites We Love

- [66 Square Feet](#)
- [Apartment Therapy](#)
- [Casa Sugar](#)
- [decor8](#)
- [Design Milk](#)
- [Design*Sponge](#)
- [ELLE DECOR](#)
- [Good Bones, Great Pieces](#)
- [Housing Watch](#)
- [MyDaily](#)
- [Oh Joy!](#)
- [Remodelista](#)
- [AOL Real Estate](#)
- [The Frisky](#)
- [The Nest's Daily Decor](#)
- [The Stir](#)
- [Curbed](#)
- [Fox News Home & Garden](#)
- [Houzz](#)
- [If It's Hip, It's Here](#)

Sponsored Links

Botox Doctors Are Furious

Mom Reveals Clever \$4 Wrinkle Therapy That Makes BOTOX Doctors Furious
TheHigherLifestyle.com

Map Your Flood Risk

Find Floodplan Maps, Facts, FAQs, Your Flood Risk Profile and More!
www.floodsmart.gov