



Designer David Heide applied feet, brackets and cornices to the cabinets to give them more of a furniture feel, and inserted display shelves to help relieve the expanse of wood and allow the owners to show off their collectibles. Ceiling fixtures from Lightworks in Minneapolis.

Photo: Susan Gilmore



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Liz and John Sjaastad's 1970s kitchen didn't fit their lifestyle or the design of their historic St. Paul residence. "We wanted the comforts of a kitchen from the 21st century with the craftsmanship and attention to detail with which our home was built in 1906," says Liz, the mother of three small children.

Assisted by builder Welch Forsman and Associates, project designer David Heide of David Heide Design Studio gutted the kitchen and started over from scratch, working in a manner that was more appropriate to the English Arts and Crafts-style home. "They needed better functionality within the small, 280-square-foot kitchen space," says Heide, who counterpointed state-of-the-art Wolf, Sub-Zero and Bosch appliances with vast expanses of warm red birch.

When remodeling a historic home, "we always look carefully at the surrounding house for cues on details," Heide says. "For example, the Tudor arch that separates the Sjaastads' kitchen and dining areas is evident on the exterior of the house as well as the existing living room." Brackets found on the fireplace mantel are repeated in the cabinetry, while paneling in the front hall inspired the paneling in the breakfast area.

Storage units, crafted by Jon Frost Cabinets, were painstakingly detailed to fit the home's overall aesthetic and maximize storage in the relatively small space. Matching birch flooring makes the space feel bigger.

Liz is continually amazed at how much traffic her new kitchen gets. "We spend the majority of our time in here," she says. "I'm constantly cooking, preparing, cleaning up and playing in our new kitchen. Plus the neighbors are coming over more and relaxing with us."

Upper left A Tudor archway frames the cozy breakfast area in Liz and John Sjaastad's St. Paul kitchen. The back of the banquette echoes the silhouette of the arch, which designer David Heide copied from the home's exterior and living room, blending new and old.

Lower left Red birch cabinets, crafted by Jon Frost Cabinetry, surround the Wolf range and conceal the Sub-Zero refrigerator to its right. A pot filler over the range saves trips to the sink.