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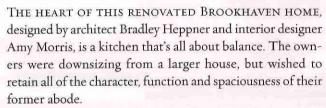
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STYLE kitchens) WRITTEN BY KATE ABNEY PHOTOGRAPHED BY ERICA GEORGE DINES PRODUCED BY RACHEL CARDINA LASSERRE The classic walnut island was actually a creative collaboration among all members of the design team-even one of the homeowners. "We were wandering through Scott's [Antique. Market] and Amy saw an antique farm table and said, 'that would be perfect for your island, but it's too small," recounts the homeowner. "So, I sketched it up, showed it to Brad, and he remade it just like that piece of furniture but in a larger, island size. It looks so much like the original."





A renovated kitchen for a downsizing couple becomes a cozy backdrop for gatherings of family and friends



"We wanted to keep the colonial, traditionally based look the homeowners wanted, but make it clean and functional," says Morris. "One of the things that makes it so modern is that there is no upper cabinet wall." Instead, the designer installed beveled white subway tiles from the countertops all the way to the ceiling, using gray-tinted grout to really make the tiles pop.

Rustic touches, like salvaged wood beams, add warmth while laying the groundwork for the scale of more decorative elements, including large lanterns and a statement-making island. Though it's packed with storage space, the island retains an airy appearance, while the focal point of the room, a large antique wooden clock—permanently stuck at 5:00 cocktail hour—serves as a conversation piece.

To maximize storage, the lower cabinetry is primarily made up of drawers, with additional storage carved out in adjacent spaces in order to maintain the kitchen's streamlined look. In the nearby mudroom, a stairwell is outfitted with floor-to-ceiling cabinets, the perfect place for cleaning supplies. And there's more storage in the pantry, discreetly located behind a paneled wall in the butler's pantry hall.

There's balance, too, in the colors and materials chosen by the designer. "If you change the color of the island from the rest of the cabinetry, then the countertops need to change, as well," she explains. Thus, Morris decided against using marble on the perimeter, opting instead for walnut surfaces—a reverse of the colors used on the island—to complement the room's warm, rich feel.

STYLE (kitchens)

