

Better Homes and Gardens®

APRIL 2008
BHG.com

Enter to Win Our
\$50,000
Dream
Vacation
page 18

*Spring
at Last!*

**78 WAYS
TO...**

- ✓ Lighten Up Every Room
- ✓ Wake Up Your Garden
- ✓ Go Greener

**Fresh & Fast
Chicken Tonight**

**Family
Room
Makeover**

Wow in a Weekend!



Color Wise

EARTHY WOODS, STONE, AND TILE INSPIRED
THIS KITCHEN'S SURPRISING PALETTE.

BY PAIGE PORTER PHOTOS ALEX HAYDEN STYLING JANNA LUFKIN



Vibrant color enlivens Sarah McKearnan and Steve Nicholas's renovated kitchen. Chartreuse cabinets and blue-gray window trim play off hues found in stone countertops, glazed ceramic backsplash tiles, and linoleum flooring. A walnut shelf at a bank of windows, *opposite above*, holds a sunlit display. Built-ins for dry goods and electronic equipment outfit a relocated pantry, *opposite below*.



One thing about Sarah McKearnan's kitchen was certain from the start: She didn't want it to be white. When she and her husband, Steve Nicholas, set out to remodel their 1915 kitchen, they found a design team they knew could infuse the room with color and make the space fit the bungalow's Craftsman bones.

Joe Schneider of J.A.S. Design-Build in Seattle tackled the functional design. He relocated a bathroom and pantry to create a wider version of the typical galley, flanked by a sitting room and a mudroom. Designer Kim Clements created a bold earthy palette based on hues found in the wood, stone, and tile Sarah and Steve had already chosen.

"I think people would like to use color but it typically overwhelms them," says Clements. "In our office, we tend to start with a palette that the client is attracted to, and then we have a touchstone."

The cabinetry is painted a lively chartreuse that plays off the green hand-glazed tiles on the backsplash. For the millwork, Clements chose a smoky blue that complements the granite and marble countertops. Pumpkin orange in the mudroom picks up the warm tones of the existing fir floor in the sitting room.

"When Kim originally showed us the swatches, we were a little afraid," says Sarah. "It seemed like such a bold move. But then she reminded us how much we loved the linoleum, the marble, and the tile, and how confident we were about using those things. So we went with it, and we have never tired of the colors. Every day that I spend in this kitchen I grow to like them more and more."





A DIFFERENT SHADE OF GREEN

Steve, environmental director for the Mayor of Seattle, and Sarah wanted their kitchen to be as eco-sensitive as possible by reusing, recycling, and choosing sustainable materials wherever they could. In some cases, long-lasting products won out over those made of environmentally friendly materials. Some of the couple's choices:

■ Linoleum floors

Marmoleum linoleum is made of all natural ingredients—including linseed oil, rosin, and wood flour—and is installed with solvent-free adhesives.

■ Wheat-board cabinetry

Cabinet boxes are made from a byproduct of harvested wheat, compressed and held together with soy-based glue.

■ Reused fir

Discovered in the home's garage, old hardwood was used for the floor in the pantry.

■ Efficient appliances

Sarah and Steve selected Energy Star-rated appliances.

■ Honed black granite counters

"We couldn't find a green product for counters that we thought would stand the test of time," Steve says. "And part of building green is building something that in theory should not need to be replaced by whomever owns your house next."



Just off the kitchen, the bright orange mudroom, *left*, has handy open shelves and original cladding on the walls and ceiling.

The kitchen, *below*, is designed as a wide galley with cleanup zone on one side and cooking zone on the other. The extra width makes it easy for two cooks to share the space. Original fir flooring delineates the adjacent sitting room, where French doors lead to a new deck. "The kitchen feels so spacious for being relatively small," says Sarah. "Part of it is the natural light we now have that we didn't have before. Big windows can seem to double your space."

A walnut-topped peninsula that looks like a table, *opposite*, is the kitchen hot spot. "We never could have realized how much we would use it," says Steve. "We eat almost every meal here, entertain here, and play board games here. And when the weather is nice, we eat outside, on the deck." ☺

For buying information, see page 248.



“The kitchen feels so spacious for being relatively small. Part of it is the natural light we now have.” SARAH McKEARNAN

