

Country Living

MARCH 2022

THE JOY *of* MAKEOVERS

Turn Your BEFORE into a Happily Ever AFTER

**SQUIRREL
DANCE
PARTIES...**

...and Other True Tales
from Old House
Renovations

Come Home to Color!

12 Cheerful Paint Picks



spring forward!

**Pretty Ideas for Kitchens & Baths
(You Deserve a Claw-Foot Tub!)**



Currently Craving
A Bistro-Inspired
Before & After

Designer Alison Giese gives a cramped 1990s-era cook space airy Parisian appeal.



4
BRIGHT IDEA
Vintage-Style
Lighting

"The key to warming up a white kitchen is adding antique and vintage elements," says Alison, who combined a pair of vintage pendants found on Etsy with coordinating (but brand new!) period-style brass semi-flush mount fixtures.

GET THE LOOK:
"Araujo" Globe Semi Flush Mount \$115; wayfair.com

5
CHARACTER BUILDER
Statement Island

Alison teamed up with Unique Kitchens and Baths cabinet designer Tanya Smith-Shiflett to build an ultra-functional island, which stores the microwave, small appliances, and cookware. The inset panels and striking blue hue (for similar, try Endless Sea by Sherwin-Williams) give the island a furniture-like feel, as does the polished marble top with a delicate ogee edge.

6
SEATING STAPLE
Bentwood Stools

The black counter stools are a nod to the styles seen at French cafés. The graceful and enduring shape was perfected in the 1830s when German-Austrian cabinetmaker Michael Thonet developed a novel approach to furniture design, using steam to bend pieces of wood.

GET THE LOOK:
"Era" Stool \$295; dwr.com



1
FRESH FOOTPRINT
Open Layout

Three shrewd modifications—removing most upper cabinets, relocating the sink, and replacing a pair of small windows with a single extra-wide one above the new sink—aired out the closed-in space. Alison also moved the refrigerator into a former closet outside the kitchen.

2
TILE TALK
Bistro Backsplash

Four-inch-square white ceramic tiles with contrasting dark grout set the bistro-style scene. The glass-front—and backless!—upper cabinets showcase the backsplash, as well as pretty dishware. An understated range hood coated with a limewash paint (Solaris by Portola Paints) mimics the softness of plaster.

3
EASY UPGRADE
Backplated
Hardware

Alison was drawn to the solid construction and antique brass finish of the British artisan-made cabinet handles, which lend texture to the modest Shaker-style drawer fronts. To get the substantial look without replacing your hardware, add a backplate (rejuvenation.com) to your existing handles.

GET THE LOOK:
"Rigdon" \$32; rejuvenation.com

