

design concepts

When Old Meets New

Creating a new kitchen with a vintage look

by **Kate Winckler**
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Vintage or period motifs have become one of the hottest trends in home kitchen design. How can you get the look for your kitchen?

"When I think of 'old-world style,' I think of timeless materials that have existed for decades," says Laurie Peirick of JP Kitchen Design Studio in Oconomowoc. Specifically, tumbled stone tile, distressed or painted woods and burnished metals all reflect the timeless look of natural materials.

"Another characteristic of old-world style is that not all of the pieces in the kitchen

match perfectly," Peirick says. Cabinets tend to look like pieces of furniture, islands can look like tables, and these elements may, in turn, look significantly different from a hutch or baker's rack in the kitchen.

Some of the special details found in old-world kitchen cabinetry are turned-post and turned table legs, bun feet on cabinets and islands, and corbels, fancy countertop brackets with ornate carved details. Door styles tend to be simple, using wood with clear grains such as maple, birch or cherry in a natural stain. An alternative to stained cabinets is painted wood, which tends to look best in a creamy white or ivory for an old-fashioned look.

FANCY FIXTURES

Having an old-world kitchen doesn't mean you have to resort to modern-looking faucets to take advantage of the latest technology. Whether creating an original design, restoring an old kitchen, or merely redecorating, more homeowners are turning to new period-style plumbing that offers traditional style with all the modern conveniences.

"It's all about marrying form and function," says Jeff Pratt, vice president of sales for Danze, a manufacturer of decorative plumbing products that include kitchen and bath faucets, bath accessories and shower-



CARLA SEWARD

Old-world kitchen cabinet door styles tend to be simple. An alternative to stained cabinets is the custom painting found in this Lac La Belle home.

heads. "Today's styles are greatly inspired by the past, but live in the present. As more homeowners gravitate to high performance kitchen products, the industry is responding with new products and finishes to ensure no one has to compromise on style."

Coordinating metal finishes on faucets and other hardware is one of the easiest ways to create a professionally designed look in your kitchen. Oil rub, black and other types of subdued metal finishes are appearing on faucets, lighting, cabinet knobs and other trim and hardware elements for the kitchen.

JEWELS FOR CABINETS

If you are not ready for a complete kitchen remodel, simple changes can make a big difference. You can bring old-world style into your kitchen with a few important details. "Many people choose to paint their cabinets and change out the cabinet hardware to get a fresh look," Peirick says.

Joan Shelley, owner of The Knob Gallery in Brookfield, has some suggestions for homeowners who are looking for turn-of-the-last-century-style hardware. "Cabinet hardware is really like jewelry for your cabinetry. It completes the look, just like earrings with an outfit." According to Shelley, there are three manufacturers who have great period-inspired hardware for your cabinets.

B & M Hardware has drawer pulls and knobs with names like "Stickley" that harken to the mission-style era. Popular finishes are polished brass, brushed nickel, polished copper, polished nickel and oil-rubbed bronze. They also carry large, ornate Victorian-style hardware with a pewter finish that looks naturally aged.

Carpe Diem has a dozen different metal finishes to choose from. It carries a line of decorative hardware appropriately named "Old World" that

features simple, round shapes in a distressed pewter finish. Another take on the old-world style is the Millennium collection. These designs feature highly detailed filigree patterns in a "cobblestone" finish, with the appearance of hand-rubbed pewter.

Unique farmhouse style is key to the Lew's Hardware Glass Bin Pull collection.

The design is a simple glass form on a tooled metal base of either brushed nickel or oil-rubbed bronze for an ele-

gant look. The pieces are substantial and come in a variety of glass colors, from translucent green, amber and blue to clear.

With today's variety of styles and finishes, kitchens with a vintage flavor don't need to sacrifice function to get all the current features. Integrating many of these details into your next kitchen project can help you achieve an inviting traditional decor that also reflects your personal tastes. 🏠

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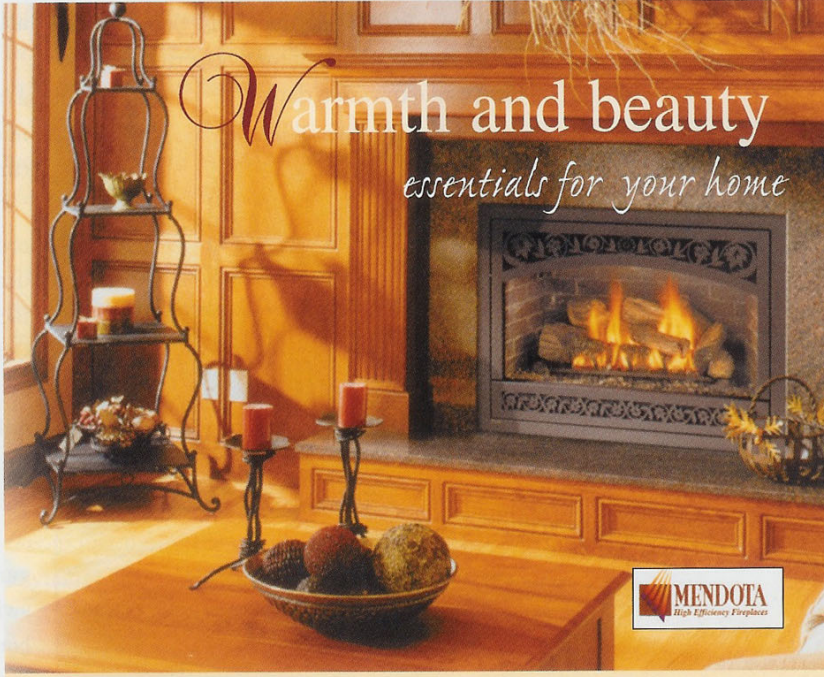
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