

Country Charm

When a fire devastated the interior of the century-old DC rowhouse of Matt Voorhees and Chris Dorobek in January 2008, the couple saw a silver lining. "It allowed us to really take a look at what was wrong with the house and fix it," says Voorhees.

At the top of their list was a new kitchen for the Woodley Park home. The narrow space had a cramped layout that made it hard to entertain and prepare a meal simultaneously. "It simply didn't have the right flow," says Dorobek.

They turned to Jennifer Gilmer Kitchen & Bath to help them create a rustic-looking kitchen with modern amenities. "We wanted it to be well edited and tailored but also respectful of the period of the house," says Voorhees.

To make the kitchen feel as if it were on a converted porch, they covered the walls in broad horizontal planks. Gilmer also rearranged the appliances and moved the bar area to create more open space. She

relocated the powder room down the hall so that it didn't interrupt the kitchen and added a banquette. New French doors lead to the back yard, giving guests a place to mingle just outside the kitchen.

Voorhees, who dislikes the clutter that can collect in traditional corner cabinets, had Gilmer install deep corner drawers that slide out on a diagonal. A doggy door tucked under a bench next to the range lets their three dogs in and out of the house. They placed the refrigerator and other appliances behind wood paneling to retain the kitchen's traditional look.

Just a year and a half after completing the renovation, Voorhees and Dorobek decided to sell when their longtime dream home went on the market. After moving into this house, the new owner gutted and redesigned the entire ground floor—with one exception.

Says Voorhees: "She didn't touch the kitchen."

WHERE TO FIND IT

LIGHTING: Urban Smokebell Lantern by Baker
STOOLS: Custom-made by Thos. Moser
COUNTERTOPS: Vermont soapstone
FLOORS: Walnut
BREAKFAST TABLE: Custom-made by Wright Table Company in Morgantown, North Carolina
BANQUETTE: Custom Furniture & Upholstery
CABINETS, REFRIGERATOR ENCLOSURE, AND TIGER-MAPLE CHINA CABINET: Premier custom-built
RANGE: Wolf
REFRIGERATOR: Sub-Zero
DISHWASHER: Miele
MICROWAVE: GE
OVEN: Gaggenau



This brick-veneer backsplash matches a 100-year-old exposed-brick wall on the kitchen's opposite side.