



None of the doors or windows could be moved or altered in any way.



## perseverance wins

**Most houses have** challenges. These challenges had a house.

From the outside, this barn-red 175-year-old New England farmhouse is charming. The gardens nearby are a happy explosion of color, and the big adjoining barn houses the clients' daycare center, "The Growing Place." The interior was another story. The first floor—kitchen, eating area, dining and family room—was too dark and chopped up. The virtual rabbits' warren of tiny cramped rooms was conducive to just one thing—remodeling.

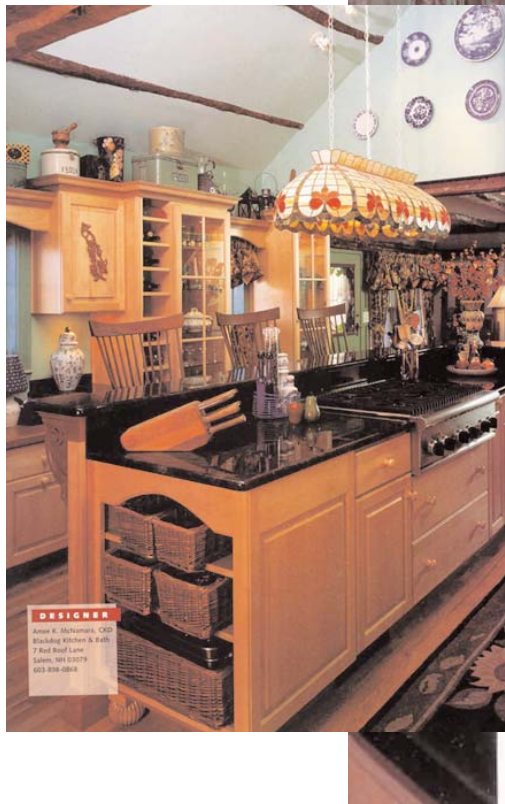
The clients asked Certified Kitchen Designer Amee K. McNamara, of Blackdog Kitchen & Bath, for room to visit in the kitchen while meals were prepared. They needed pantry space and a separate professional-style cooktop and wall ovens. A huge double-sided fireplace occupied the center, and they didn't want to move it. That left about 13 by 15 feet of usable space, which they wanted to be "uniquely pretty," with lots of eye-catching details like carved moldings and corbels. And because the house is on the historic register, none of the exterior openings could be moved or altered in any way.

The design solution lay in the combination

of a two-level island and a bank of shallow cabinetry. The large cooktop is the hub of activity, while the raised bar area behind it doubles as front-row seating and splatter guard. The cabinets provide space for ovens, china cabinets and a wine rack; a desk and window seat bridge the unmovable windows. A wall between the kitchen and dining room was taken down and part of the ceiling opened to expose gnarled beams.

Professional installer Joel Bedard labored to make square custom cabinetry conform to the lines of an old house twisted out of plumb and out of level. The base cabinetry had to be shimmed and the molding scribed.

The end result, highlighted by two mouth-watering shades of apple-green paint and exuberantly accessorized, is worth all the effort. ♦



**Dimensions:**  
13' X 24'

**Products Used:**  
Cabinetry: Candielight, Natural maple with cherry accents  
Flooring: Oak  
Countertops: pine green granite  
Sink(s): Franke  
Faucets: KWC  
Dishwasher: Fisher & Paykel  
Cooktop: Thermador Pro Cooktop 36"  
Lighting: Arclight of Nashua  
Refrigerator: Sub-Zero  
Wall Covering: Paint  
Oven: Thermador  
Double Oven- Stainless

**DESIGNER**

Amee K. McNamara, CDD  
Blackdog Kitchen & Bath  
7 Red Bull Lane  
Salem, NH 03079  
603-898-0864