

## The Pettis Kitchen

TWO YEARS AGO, Phillip Pettis bought a home originally built in 1950 by the Cheshire family, the name-sake behind Cheshire Bridge Road. The Lavista Park house was in its original condition with very few changes, Pettis says, so the couple set their sights on remodeling the old kitchen. Pettis's company, Phillip Pettis Homes, handled the construction, while designer Meredith White took the artistic reins.

► **STYLE GURU** Before starting his own firm in 1983, White was director of interior design at Bloomingdale's as well as a designer for Elizabeth Draper. Pettis notes some of White's former clients and projects: Hollywood legend Greta Garbo, designer Bill Blass, and the Blair House across from the White House in Washington, D.C. While White works strictly on referral, Pettis says, they had collaborated on previous projects before tackling this drab kitchen—untouched for almost sixty years.

► **TIME WARP** The word "outdated" doesn't do the "before" shot justice. The tiny kitchen with blue gingham curtains and scalloped cornices looked like a set from *Leave It to Beaver*. Plus, the all-white color scheme washed out the room. "Our first priority was the kitchen," Pettis says. "We both like to cook, and we wanted a true chef's kitchen with every modern convenience."

► **HEAD ABOVE THE REST** The most striking new feature has to be the vaulted tent-style ceiling, which makes the kitchen (already doubled in size) seem larger. "We lined the ceiling with beautiful tongue-and-groove cypress wood running horizontally to add warmth to the space and maintain a classic look," Pettis says.

► **SURFACE IMPROVEMENTS** White and his clients chose rich hardwood floors, Italian marble countertops from G & L Marble, and cabinets with a diamond embossment by BQ Custom Cabinetry.

► **POWER TOOLS** "I wanted to minimize the number of receptacles in the kitchen backsplash for a cleaner look, so I installed a power strip at the bottom of all the top cabinets so you can 'plug up' to power small appliances," Pettis says. He recommends buying as many appliances as possible from the same manufacturer; this way the controls, knobs, and trim all look consistent.

► **COOKING SMART** "We chose a Viking range for its superior performance and great look, but went with an all-gas model rather than dual-fuel, which saved about \$2,000," Pettis says. "We also selected a cabinet-depth refrigerator and enclosed it in cabinetry to create the look of a much more expensive built-in, saving about \$4,000." Pettis is particularly pleased to have two Bosch dishwashers, which help with entertaining.

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