

before
after

kitchens

by Lena James Fenton

Cooking up unbelievable remodels in metro-area homes

kitchen by Kingston Custom Builders

Alexandria, Va.

- **Project Specifics:** The kitchen in this Old Town Alexandria home was part of an extensive remodeling project that took about a year and a half to complete. Of this entire project, the budget for the kitchen was about \$85,000.

- **Major Area of Concern:** What wasn't an area of concern? Originally built in 1840, this historic home was somewhat remodeled about 50 years ago but the addition had become an unsafe eyesore. Kingston tore down the old addition and rebuilt a three-story structure that expanded the original house while keeping the design in line with the area's historic architecture.

- **Biggest Challenge:** In addition to preserving the historic nature of the house while creating a space suitable for modern life, one of the other challenges of the project was making sure the kitchen's cabinetry and appliances were a good match, both in terms of design and function. Because of this, there had to be some flexibility on everyone's part in waiting for the design, construction and installation of the custom-designed cabinetry and a lot of patience when it came to the appliances—the first new refrigerator was returned because it didn't flow with the rest of the kitchen.

- **What made this project unique:** Did you know that Old Town Alexandria has its own full-time archaeologist? When it came to gutting the existing building and starting over again, history had to play as important a role as modern-day zoning and other ordinance laws. The project was also a chance to impress the neighborhood with considerate service and to convince them that in the end, the project would only benefit everyone on the block. And it wasn't only the homeowners and the neighbors who were impressed: Kingston Builders was awarded the 2003 Contractor of the Year (or COTY) award for Residential Historical Renovation.



Photos courtesy of Kingston Custom Builders

before



Something old, something new