

REMODELING | KITCHEN

# Adding on Style

For a 1920s cottage in Charleston, an enterprising couple adds an airy kitchen while crafting a hardworking and chic butler's pantry out of the old space



**EARLY ONE DECEMBER MORNING,** Michael and Alison Brewer stumbled across a residence for sale in Charleston's South of Broad neighborhood, where styles range from polished antebellum to early 20th-century. The young couple bundled up their toddler and went to scope out the property from the sidewalk.

The Brewers created a professional-style space with few upper cabinets.



Rather than lose their view, the Brewers opted for storage drawers under the countertops (above left) and open shelves that flank the stainless stove hood. The couple calls the breakfast area (above right), initially a small porch, the “hyphen” because it links the old and new portions of the house together. Alison Brewer (below) with Grayson, 6, and Mary Wade, 2.



### Alison Brewer: Where To Save and Where To Splurge

- Ask yourself how you are *really* going to live in the space. The livability factor will determine where you should save and splurge. We enjoy cooking, so we knew from the start that we would splurge on appliances. The double dishwashers make cleanup a breeze.
- We saved on flooring by using the existing oak floors in the butler’s pantry and new oak flooring in the kitchen. Oak would not have been our first choice, but the dark ebony stain elevates the look.
- A few of the original windowpanes were broken during the renovation, and instead of replacing the entire window, we replaced the panes with restoration glass to match the originals.
- Splurge on custom cabinetry. It allows one to completely customize the layout to fit one’s needs and makes for a much more efficient kitchen.
- Concede a few dream details if you have to. Extras such as a backyard pool were abandoned when unexpected costs inflated the budget.