



NARI MN 2026 ROTY AWARDS

Project: Recrafted Heritage

Category: Residential Kitchen \$150K - \$200K

HONOR THE HISTORY

This 1915 St. Paul home had stood for more than a century, carrying both the charm of its era and the challenges that had quietly built up over time. The kitchen, in particular, no longer supported the way its owners lived, shaped by an unconventional layout that felt disjointed and inefficient.

The homeowners wanted a kitchen that better reflected the way they cook, gather, and entertain while honoring the history that made the home special. Their goal was not to start over, but to improve flow, restore natural light, and bring a sense of cohesion back to the space.

Flexibility was also critical. Rather than designing around a fixed island, the homeowners wanted a space that could adapt to everyday life as easily as it could accommodate family and friends.

Just as importantly, they wanted the remodel to respect the home's original character, preserving historic details while creating a kitchen that felt functional and thoughtfully updated.



WHAT WASN'T WORKING IN THEIR EXISTING HOME

BEFORE FLOOR PLAN

The original kitchen reflected years of changes that had compromised both the home's historic character and the way the space functioned. Dated cabinetry, worn finishes, and an unconventional layout left the room feeling disconnected from the rest of the home.

Rather than supporting cooking and entertaining, the layout worked against the homeowners' everyday routines and masked the architectural character that made the 1915 home unique.

One of the original kitchen windows had been removed and closed in, reducing natural light and altering the home's original design.

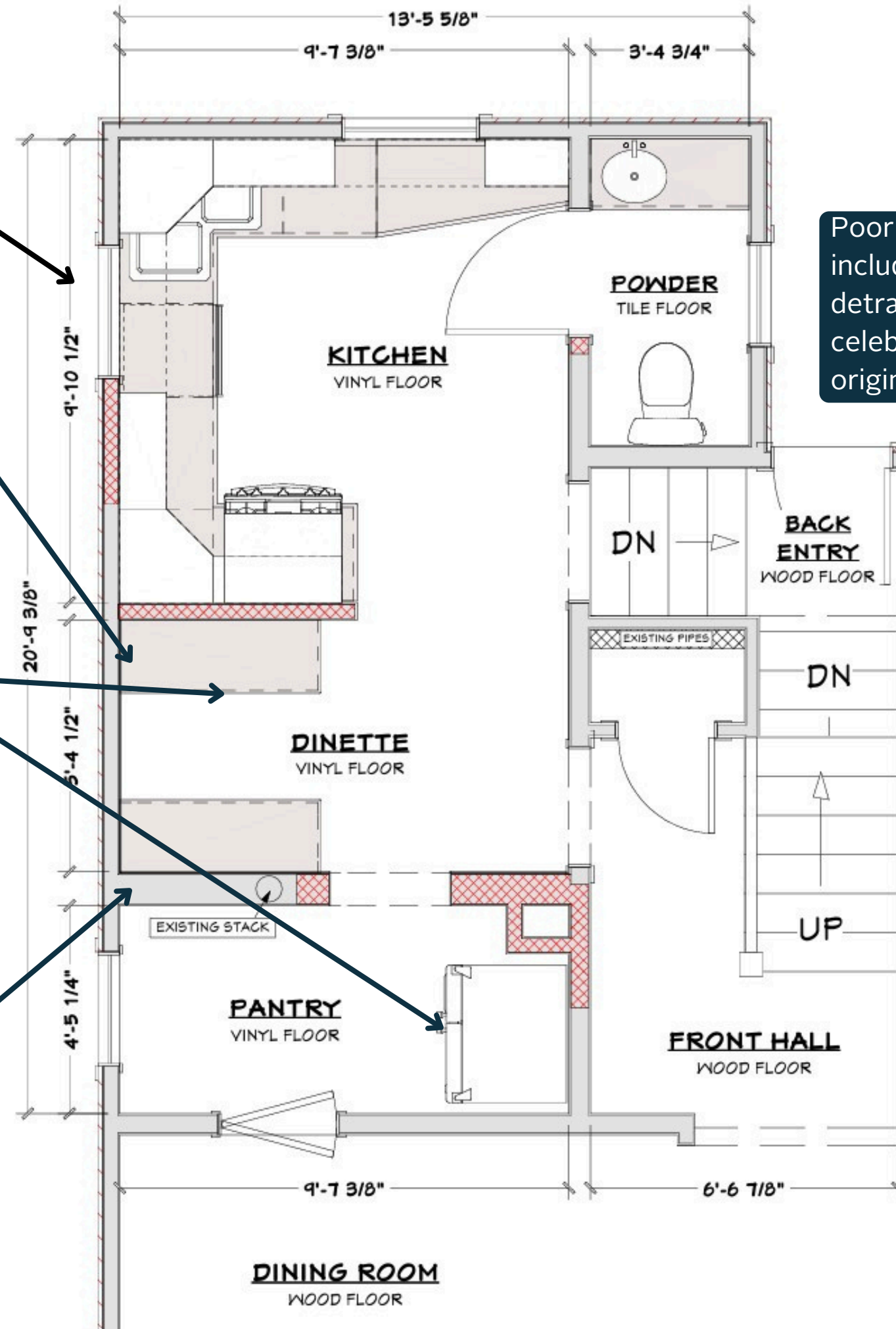
A built-in booth occupied valuable floor area.

Inefficiencies were everywhere. For example, grabbing items from the refrigerator involved a walk through the dinette area out to the pantry.

Walls separating each space made the layout feel choppy and reduced usable space.

Poor material choices, including vinyl floors, detracted, rather than celebrated, the homes' original character.

The kitchen was a poor pairing to the beautiful dining room and surrounding space.



CLIENT WISHES

CELEBRATING HISTORY & MODERN CONVENIENCES

Their goal was not to reinvent the house, but to restore its sense of continuity by improving flow, increasing natural light, and creating spaces that felt authentic to its history.

Remodeled in stages, the overall design was lackluster. The clients wanted a design that celebrated, rather than erased, the home’s historic character.



Before



Before



Before



Before

Tired of living in a choppy layout that didn’t serve any one purpose well, they wished for more intentional use of space.

The homeowners prioritized a brighter kitchen maximizing natural light.

Typical to homes of this age, storage was limited as was space for their desired modern day appliances. The desire was to remedy both issues.

To open up the space for entertaining, cooking and everyday life, they wanted the underused dinette removed.

CHALLENGES ADDRESSED

AFTER FLOOR PLAN

The renovation presented a series of challenges typical of a century-old home, where previous changes had compromised both the home's historic character and the way the main level functioned.

The redesigned plan improves circulation and everyday function while working thoughtfully within the home's existing structure.

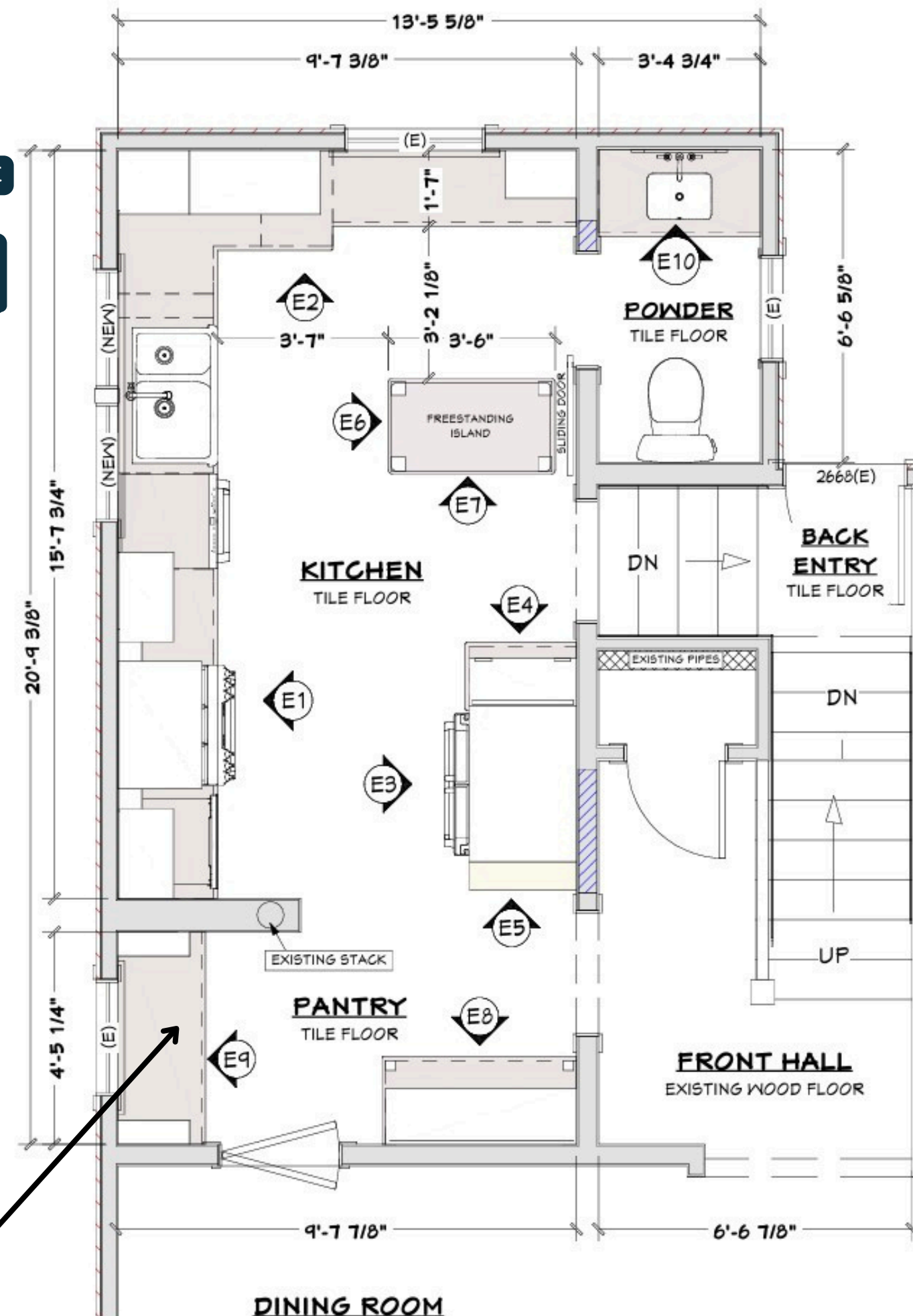


After

The original kitchen window had been relocated during an earlier renovation, diminishing natural light and altering the room's original composition. Returning a two-wide double-hung window to its original opening above the farmhouse sink required careful coordination, restoring natural light and the kitchen's architectural balance.

Asbestos, uneven floors, and aging construction required careful remediation, floor leveling, and structural coordination to create a solid foundation for the renovation.

The upper-level plumbing stack could not be relocated, so the existing wall was incorporated into the design as the anchor for a narrow serving counter connecting the kitchen and dining room.



Finding materials that felt authentic to the home's era while meeting modern needs for function and durability presented a challenge. Carefully selected, historically inspired materials and details preserve the home's character while delivering modern performance.

FUNCTIONALITY
UPGRADES

MADE FOR LIVING

The remodeled kitchen is designed around the way the homeowners use the space. Together, these thoughtful improvements create a kitchen that feels more efficient, and flexible without expanding the home's original footprint.



Relocating the refrigerator into the kitchen creates a more efficient work triangle while adding integrated coat and utility storage that feels intentional rather than forced.



Replacing the bulky radiator beneath the existing kitchen window with a concealed toe-kick heater frees valuable space for shallow pantry storage.

A sliding barn door to the powder room eliminates the interference of a traditional swing door.

The mobile floating table adapts throughout the day as a prep station, buffet, bar, or table for two.

FUNCTIONALITY
UPGRADES (CONT.)



Original closed-off window opening



A narrow serving counter creates a natural transition between the kitchen and dining room.

Before



Ample storage and updated cooking appliances add much-needed modern function.

A spice rack provides easy access for everyday cooking necessities.

Returning to a two-wide double-hung window unit, after one of the windows had been closed off over time, returns natural light to the kitchen and allows the sink to move out of the corner, centering naturally beneath the windows.

Thoughtful space planning improves circulation while strengthening the connection between the kitchen and adjoining spaces.

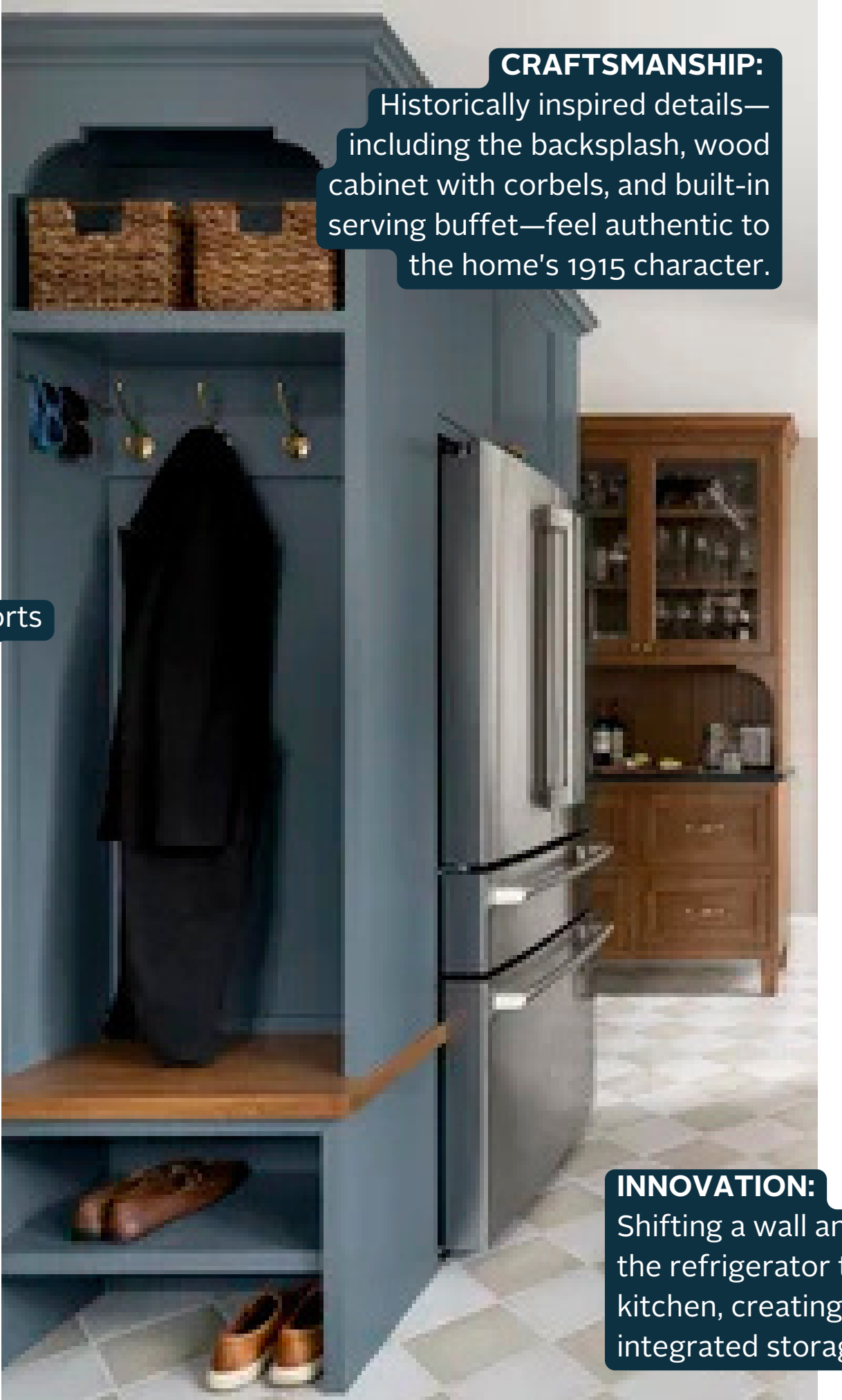
CRAFTSMANSHIP &
INNOVATION

MASTERFUL DETAILS

The kitchen reflects the careful balance of craftsmanship and innovation required when remodeling a century-old home. Every solution builds on the home's existing character, transforming structural constraints into thoughtful design opportunities while preserving its historic integrity.



INNOVATION:
The existing plumbing stack now supports a narrow serving counter between the kitchen and dining room.



CRAFTSMANSHIP:
Historically inspired details—including the backsplash, wood cabinet with corbels, and built-in serving buffet—feel authentic to the home's 1915 character.

INNOVATION:
Shifting a wall and doorway allowed the refrigerator to return to the kitchen, creating a continuous wall of integrated storage.



INNOVATION:
The delicate balance of blending the old with the new included returning the two-wide double-hung kitchen window to its original location, restoring natural light to the space.

AESTHETICS &
DESIGN DETAILS

TIMELESS CHARACTER

The remodeled kitchen celebrates the character of the original 1915 home through a thoughtful balance of historic inspiration and timeless design. Every finish and architectural detail was selected to feel authentic to the home's era while supporting the comfort and livability expected today. The result is a space that feels carefully curated and entirely at home within its century-old surroundings.



Before



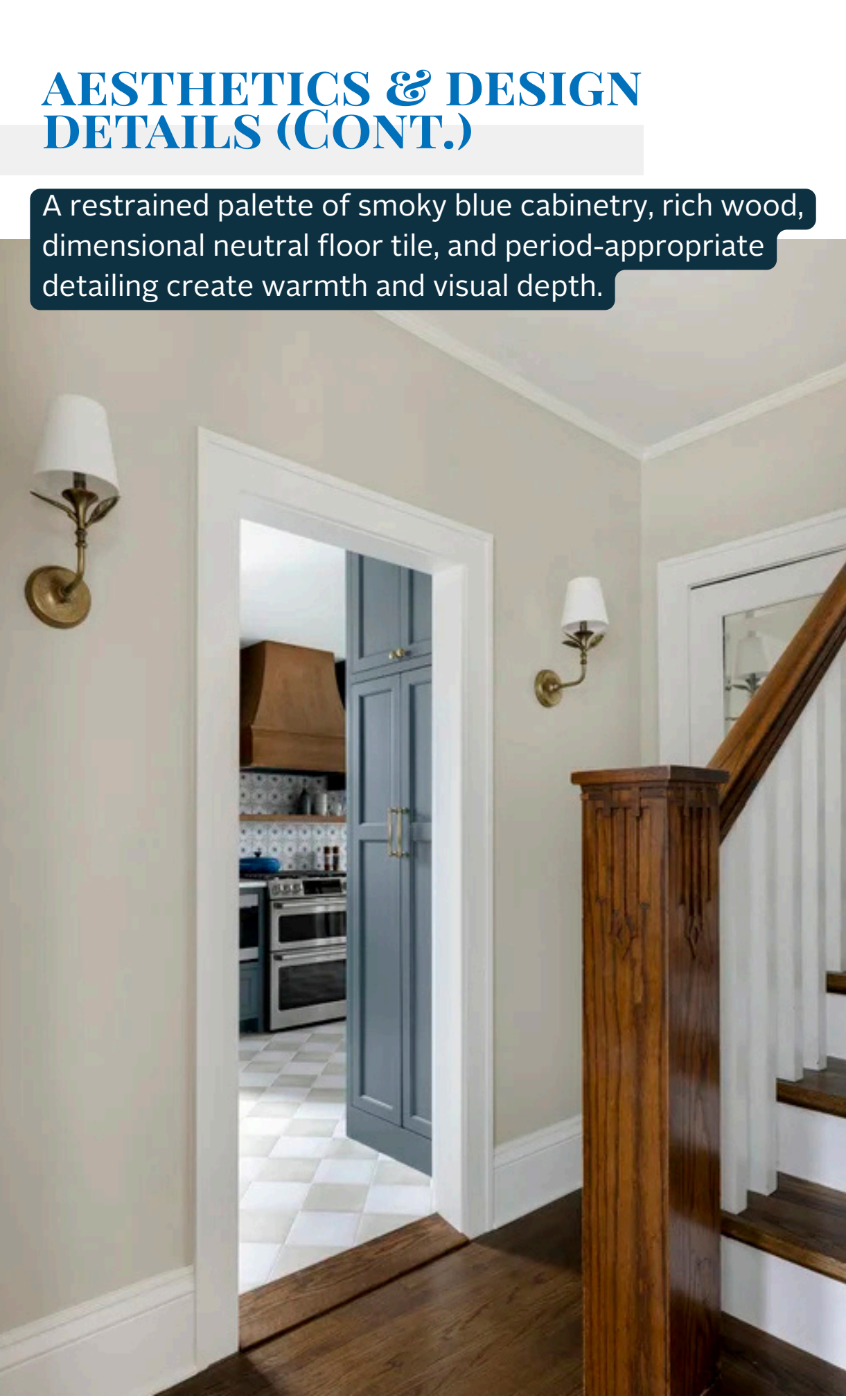
The mobile floating table maintains an open, flexible layout, allowing the historic architecture to take center stage.

A custom wood hutch with decorative corbels, beaded inset doors and drawers, and a natural soapstone top reinforces the kitchen's handcrafted character while creating an ideal snack and beverage station.



**AESTHETICS & DESIGN
DETAILS (CONT.)**

A restrained palette of smoky blue cabinetry, rich wood, dimensional neutral floor tile, and period-appropriate detailing create warmth and visual depth.



Rich wood at the hood, a historically inspired backsplash, farmhouse sink and period-appropriate detailing create a work zone that feels authentic to the home's era.

