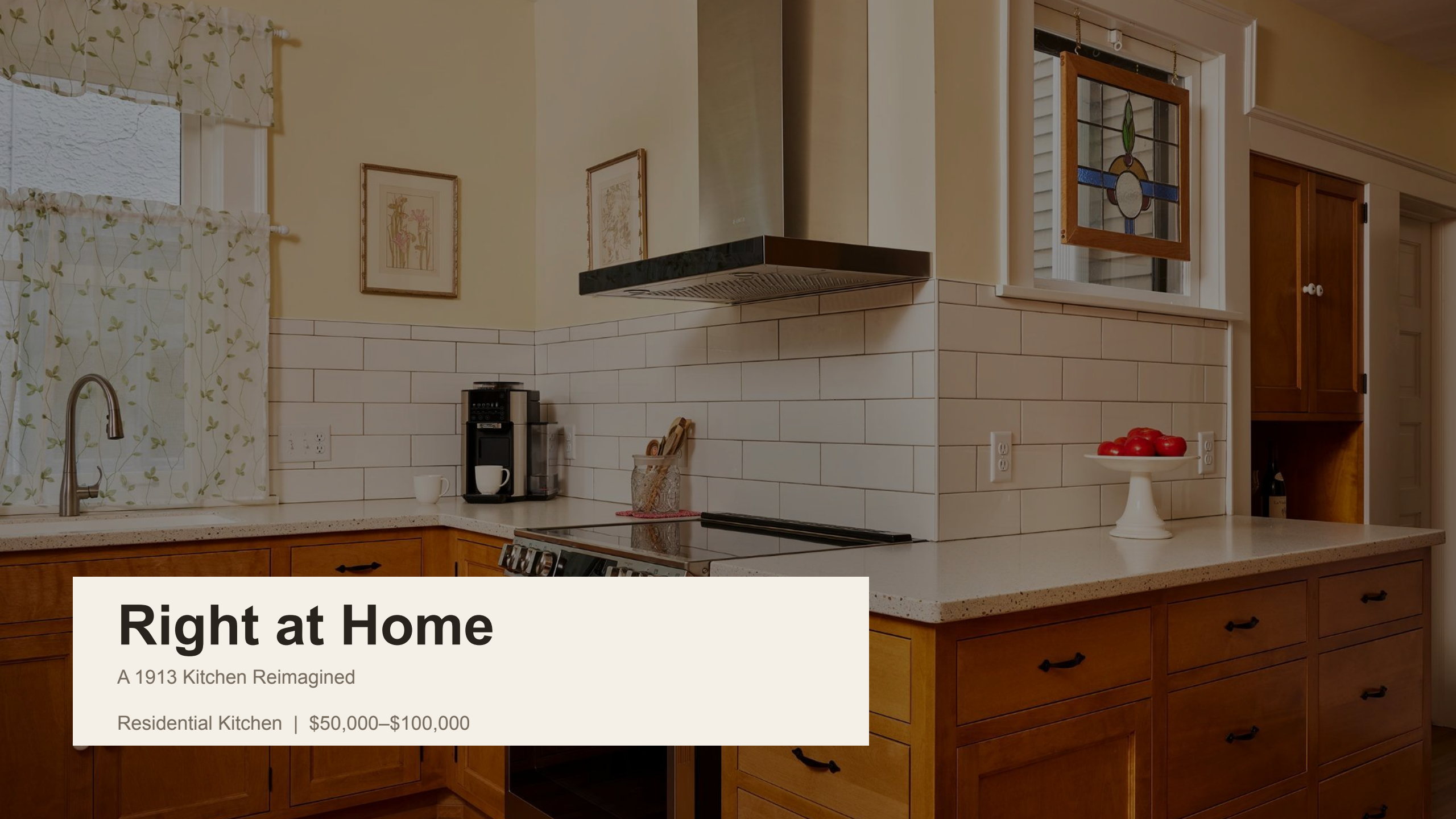




Right at Home

A 1913 Kitchen Reimagined

Residential Kitchen | \$50,000–\$100,000

A vintage kitchen, thoughtfully reclaimed

The homeowners wanted more workspace and storage without losing the character of their 1913 home or replacing cabinetry that still had value. An unused staircase consumed precious floor area, soffits and a ceiling header divided the room, and the original kitchen left uneven surfaces and worn floors. We removed the stairs, integrated custom cabinetry with retained pieces, leveled the old addition, and installed continuous oak flooring. A concealed toe-kick heater replaced the displaced radiator, while a custom metal guard echoes the home's original stained glass and preserves light from the front foyer.

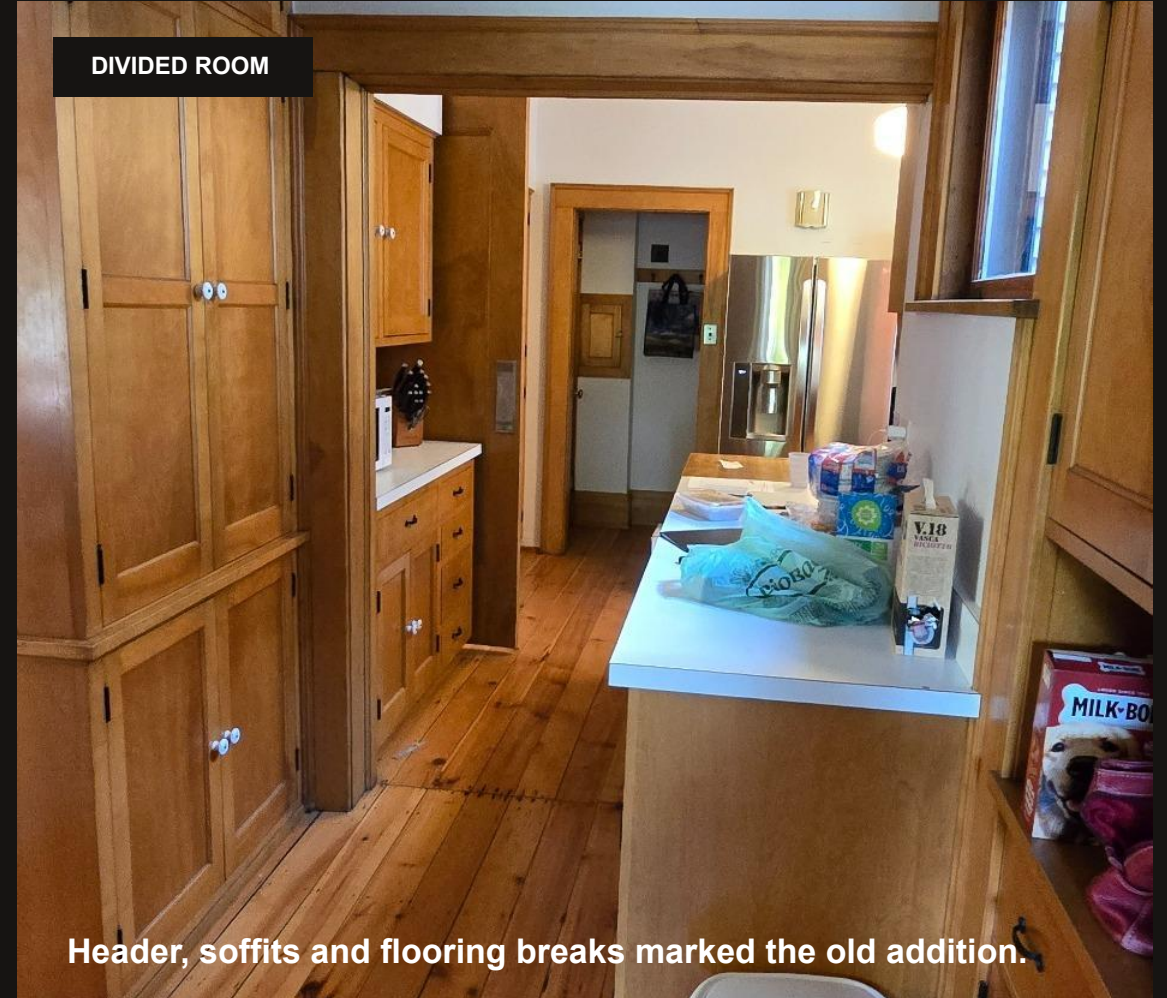


CLIENT NEEDS | A careful evolution

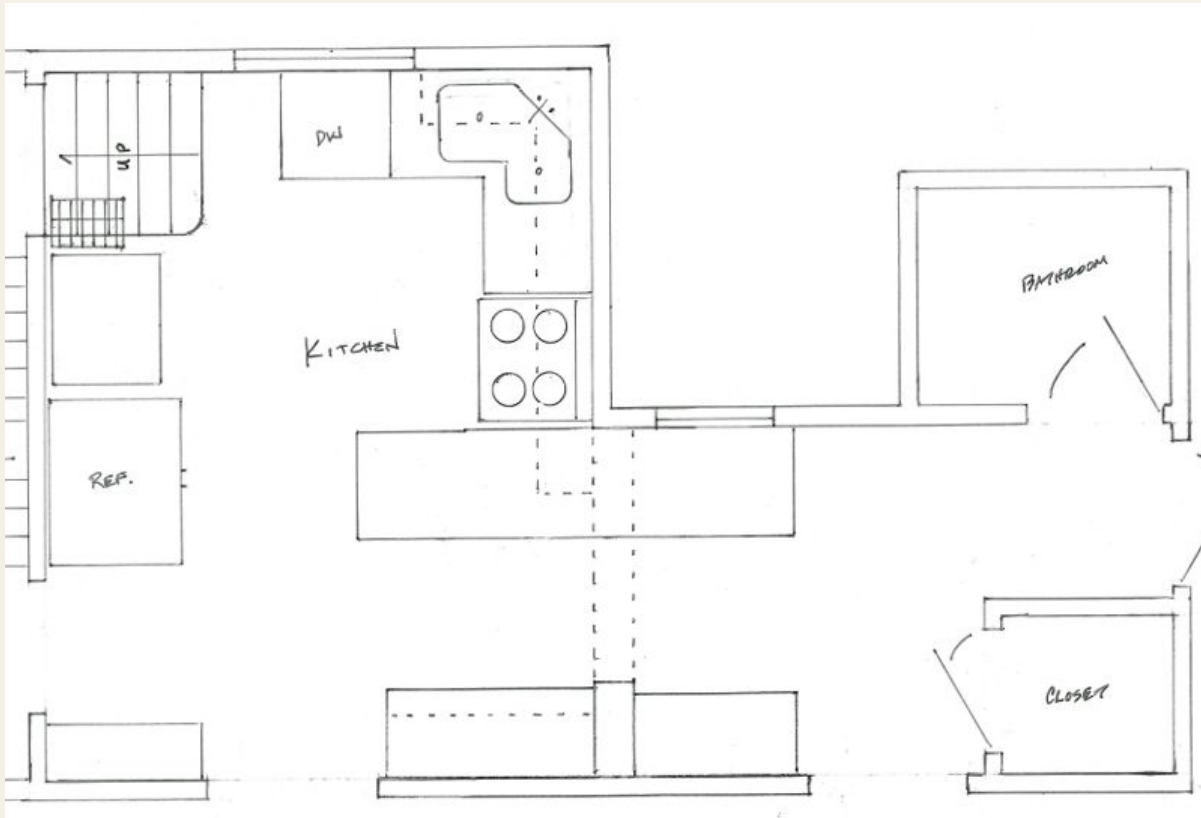
The homeowners established five priorities for the kitchen.

- **Preserve what worked** Retain sound cabinetry and the familiar historic feeling of the house.
- **Gain useful space** Create considerably more countertop and storage within the existing kitchen.
- **Connect the room** Remove visual breaks overhead and underfoot so the kitchen reads as one space.
- **Keep it open** Avoid a wall of new upper cabinets and preserve room for artwork and light.
- **Simplify care** Choose durable surfaces and modern appliances suited to daily use.

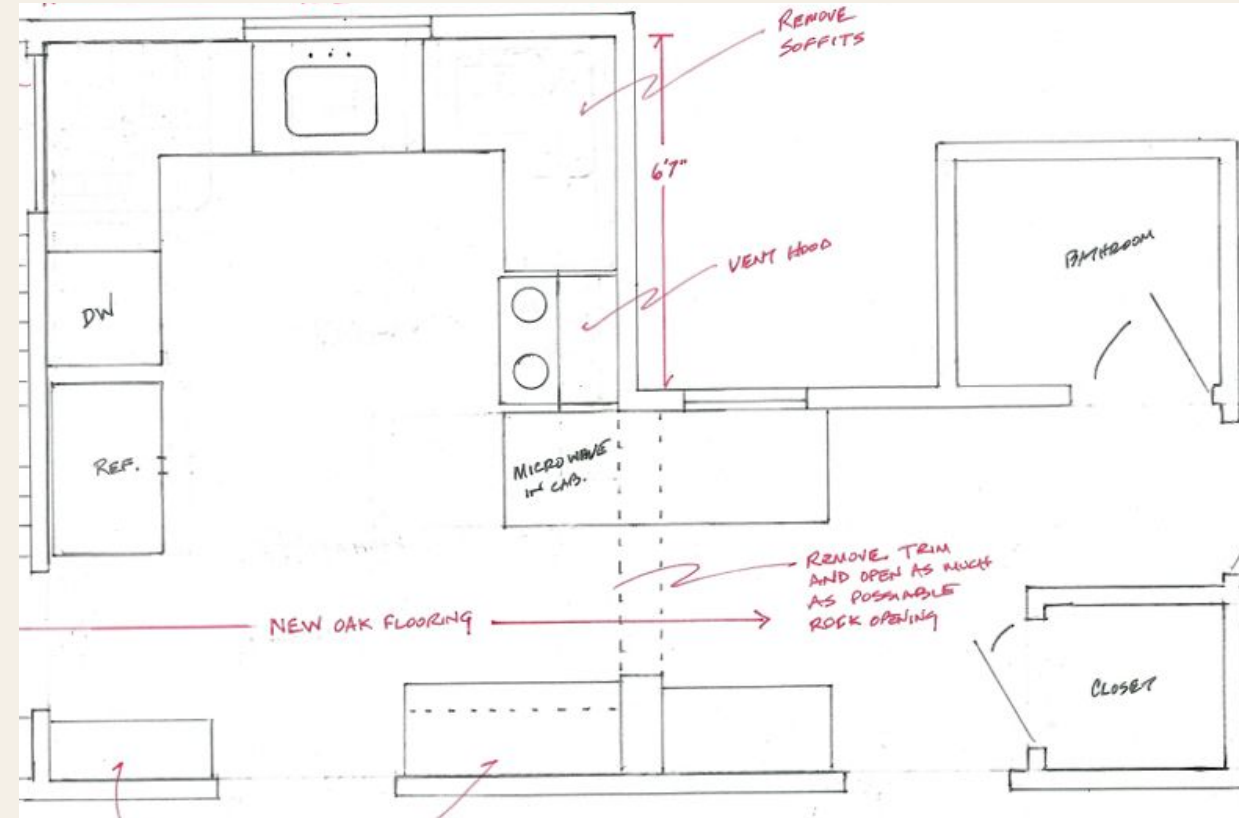
A fractured and divided kitchen



One strategic removal changed the room



BEFORE



AFTER

An unused staircase became productive kitchen space

The opening above remains, preserving daylight and connection to the front foyer.



The steep stairs and radiator made the end of the kitchen less usable.



The reclaimed footprint now supports storage, counter space and the dishwasher.

Removing the header reunited the kitchen

Painted trim now connects the kitchen visually with the rest of the house.

BEFORE



A heavy header announced the boundary of the old addition.

AFTER



A continuous ceiling and oak floor create a long, open sightline.

The working kitchen gained breathing room

The new arrangement supports cooking without the peninsula obstructing circulation.

BEFORE



The range was boxed in by a soffit, scalloped trim and limited landing space.

AFTER



A proper hood, deep drawers and expanded counters improve daily work.

AESTHETICS | Old and new read as one room

The design restores balance while respecting the home's 1913 character.



- **Rhythm and continuity**
Inset doors, porcelain knobs, dark pulls and warm maple repeat across retained and new custom cabinetry.
- **Balance and focal point**
The centered sink and balanced cabinetry create symmetry around the window.
- **Color and contrast**
Speckled cream Corian countertop, tile and painted trim brighten the room against the maple and black accents.
- **Openness**
Removed soffits and limited upper cabinets leave visual space for light and artwork.

FUNCTIONALITY | Reclaimed space works harder

The existing footprint now supports efficient cooking, storage and circulation.



- **Replaced corner sink**
Awkward geometry and ergonomic issues were solved by creating space for a standard sink.
- **More work surface**
Removing the stairs and peninsula created considerably more continuous counter.
- **More storage**
New base cabinets, full-extension drawers, and creative pantry inserts add capacity without crowding the walls.
- **Clearer traffic flow**
The open ceiling line and continuous floor connect both ends of the kitchen.
- **Improved ventilation**
A properly sized hood supports the new range that actually vents outside.
- **Durable materials**
Low-maintenance Corian countertops integrates seamlessly with the Corian sink.

CRAFTSMANSHIP | Details make the integration subtle

Custom work bridges a 1913 home and a new kitchen.



- **Cabinetry**

Custom-built pieces match the existing profiles, proportions and stain color.

- **Molding**

New crown molding replaces soffits and wraps precisely into the door casing.

- **Flooring**

Extensive shimming created a level plane before new oak was installed, stained to match and finished.

- **Tile**

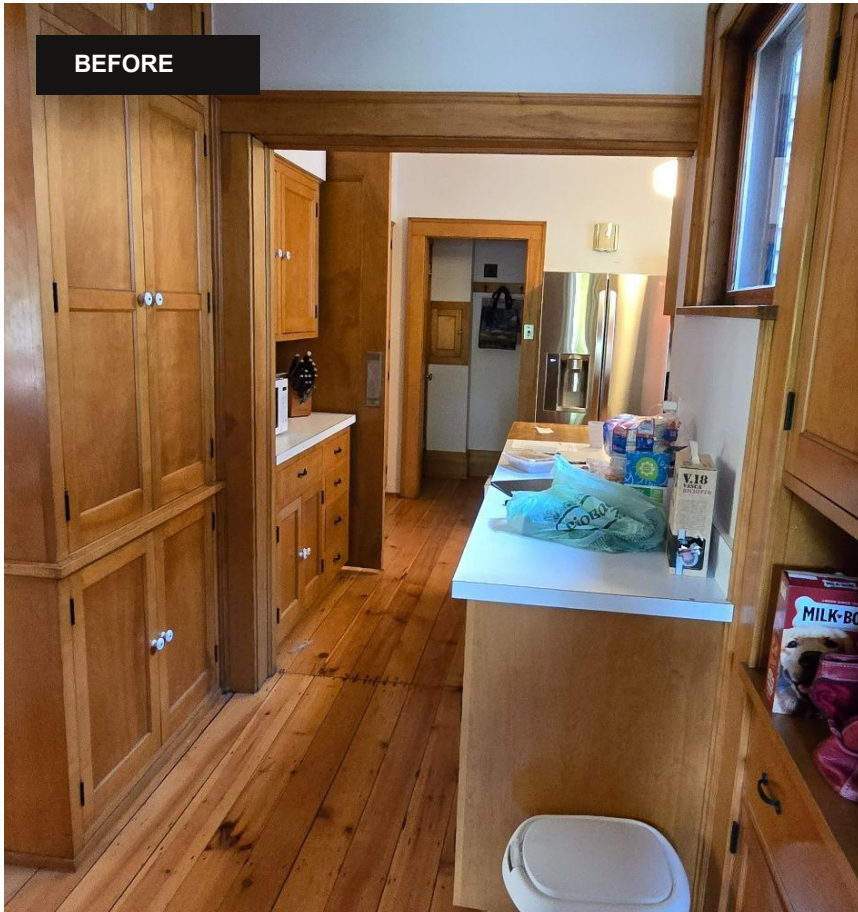
The backsplash was laid cleanly around a family heirloom used as a towel holder.

- **Metalwork**

A locally fabricated guard translates original stained-glass geometry into steel, matching the 1913 era glass with a new functional gate.

A difficult floor correction disappears in the result

The oldest craftsmanship story is visible through its absence: no ridge, break or obvious transition remains.



The rear portion was added roughly a century ago. Once the old flooring, soffits and header were removed, extensive shimming was required to bring the irregular structure into plane. New oak flooring was installed and custom stained to blend with the home.

CRAFTSMANSHIP | A safety guard became architecture

Local metalwork preserves the opening and borrows its geometry from the home's original stained glass.



The unused stair was removed from the kitchen, while the upper opening remained to share light with the front foyer. A local metalworker created a custom guard whose floral form and rectilinear border echo the original 1913 stained-glass window.



INNOVATION | Modern performance stays discreet

New systems and old-house problem solving protect both space and character.



- **Toe-kick hydronic radiant heat**

A power-assisted heater beneath the sink replaces the radiator displaced by stair removal.

- **Selective reuse**

Sound cabinetry was retained and extended, directing the budget toward changes with greater impact.

- **Solid-surface integration**

Corian creates an integrated sink and nearly invisible seams across the expanded counters.

- **Modern appliance**

Smart Induction Slide-in Range with Air Fry, ProBake Convection, and Air Sous Vide

- **Purpose-built safety**

The custom steel guard keeps the light-sharing opening while protecting the former stair edge.

CLIENT NEEDS MET | History remains part of daily life

The refreshed kitchen feels personal, open and appropriate to the house.



A family heirloom returns to daily life

The ceramic duck was carefully incorporated into the subway-tile backsplash and now serves as a hand-towel holder. The surrounding tile layout accommodates the object cleanly while giving a personal artifact a useful role.

The gate, artwork and warm cabinetry preserve the clients' history while serving their kitchen today.

THE CLIENTS' OBJECTIVES, ACHIEVED

- ✓ Historic character preserved
- ✓ Considerably more counter and storage
- ✓ Kitchen visually reconnected
- ✓ Open walls retained for art
- ✓ Durable, low-maintenance surfaces
- ✓ Modern heat and ventilation integrated

**A kitchen shaped for contemporary life
now feels at home in 1913.**

