

*"Kitchens will always be
the hub of the home. Now
more than ever people
want to share them with
family and friends."*

—Dana Wolter



TIMELESS CLASSIC

A newly renovated home gets an updated kitchen with enduring appeal.

SARA AND KYLE KINNEY KNEW THEIR HOUSE NEEDED AN UPDATE—but they didn't want to expand their square footage. Instead, they reworked rooms and walls and reassigned spaces to better fit their family's needs. Of course this included a new, better-functioning kitchen. "Sara called me in at the beginning stages of the design," says interior decorator Dana Wolter. "She knew how she wanted the space to work. I just helped her think it through."

Using the existing footprint and stealing a few feet from a former stairwell and closet, Dana stripped the kitchen to the bare walls and reallocated space for counters, cabinets, appliances, and an eating area. "We wanted the style of the kitchen to be in keeping with the rest of the house while giving them a functional, beautiful, updated space to unwind and enjoy time with family and friends," Dana says.

Aiming for classic style, Dana opted for tried and true materials such as marble and stone, clean-lined cabinets, and polished nickel hardware. "Clients want value in their kitchen and want to spend their money wisely," Dana says. "People are backing away from trendy, glitzy finishes. With so much going on in the world, people are looking to simplify their lives."

Sharing the custom wall color, cabinets align seamlessly with the space. Countertops, honed desert sand marble, and a chocolate-glazed subway tile backsplash add just enough brown to tie into the pecky cypress island and dark finishes on furniture and fabrics.

"I'm a big believer in subtly layering different textures in a room," says Dana. "In order for a space to work and have dimension, it needs to have balance." Dana offset the hard surfaces with leather bongo stools, sheer draperies, and an upholstered banquette with nailhead trim. "The fabric on the banquette is about as wild as I will get in choosing a fabric for a room," Dana says of the damask Schumacher print. "But this works beautifully with the simple materials in the rest of the kitchen." This banquette's seat boasts a commercial grade Kravet fabric for durability. Bringing in a bit of sentimentality, the kitchen table is made out of butternut wood from the family's farm in West Virginia.



resources: interior design: **DANA WOLTER, DANA WOLTER INTERIORS** 205.563.5779 • www.danawolterinteriors.com • builder: **DAN SIMS, BROOKSTONE DEVELOPMENT** 205.587.3888 custom cabinets: **ROBERT RUTLEDGE** 205.368.6222 backsplash: **CROSSVILLE TILE AND STONE** 2004 Cahaba Road, Mountain Brook, AL • 205.871.2619/www.crossvilletileandstone.com • countertops: **CUSTOM STONE** 6900 2nd Ave So., Birmingham, AL 35212 hardware: **HGH HARDWARE** 3912 2nd Avenue South, Birmingham, AL 35222 • 205.595.4655 • www.hghhardware.com island finish: **DANIEL WHITSETT, PAINTWORKS DESIGN** 1665 28th Ave. So., Birmingham, AL • 205.879.2751 appliances: **HH GREGG** • 205.833.6544 • www.hgregg.com hanging lanterns: **POTTERY BARN** www.potterybarn.com chandelier and bunny paintings: **OWNER'S COLLECTION** damask fabric: Schumacher (to the Trade) www.fschumacher.com