

# VINTAGE MAKEOVERS: 62 EASY IDEAS

# Cottages

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cottage kitchens

THE RECIPE FOR

## Retro Styling

A little kitchen gets a main-course makeover with a helping of mid-century-modern charm.

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**W**HEN ARCHITECTS and designers were called in to rehab a small townhouse kitchen, the homeowner knew exactly what she wanted: a cheerful space with a vintage vibe.

"The client remodeled her master bedroom in a retro theme," CoCo Harper of Jackson Design and Remodeling says. "She liked it so much that she decided to continue the theme in other areas of her home. [For the kitchen,] she wanted a nostalgic design with retro-inspired appliances as a starting point."

A set of vintage-themed Northstar appliances in buttercup yellow—including a refrigerator, range and range hood, and microwave—created the inspiration and color palette the design team needed to execute the homeowner's vision.

"The appliances are unified with the kitchen's Art Deco design elements, such as the tile countertops with black accent and simple white cabinets, for a bright, sunny, optimistic feeling that makes them happy," CoCo says.

"The curved countertop edges fit within the retro aesthetic and present softer, safer edges," says CoCo Harper of Jackson Design and Remodeling, which oversaw this retro-kitchen remodel. Retro-inspired appliances and accessories and marmoleum flooring laid out in irregular patterns add to the look.



White cabinets with recessed panels and simple pulls complement the retro theme without overtaking any of the other features in the kitchen.

THE SMALL PORTABLE ISLAND ADDS THE PERFECT FINISHING TOUCH FOR THE SMALL KITCHEN DUE TO ITS EASE OF USE AND MOBILITY.



## cottage kitchens

### DESIGN FOR DUAL FUNCTIONS

The design team opened up the spaces between the kitchen and the living/dining areas, giving the home a “much more spacious feel,” CoCo says. They also created recessed space in the kitchen for the client’s washer and dryer, which were previously located in the garage, and concealed them behind a door. The new indoor laundry area makes for easier access without disrupting the flow of the overall design.

Other dual-purpose amenities include a peninsula countertop that pulls double duty as a prep area on one side and bar overhang/buffet on the other, as well as built-in shelves for extra under-counter storage. When installing sleek kitchen cabinets, the team also added built-in and open above-cabinet shelving, which are both functional

and aesthetically pleasing. The small portable island adds the perfect finishing touch for the small kitchen due to its ease of use and mobility.

### ATTENTION TO DETAIL

The team paid meticulous attention to detail when pulling together the kitchen’s vintage design, from a mid-century-modern style pendant lamp and retro-inspired marmoleum flooring to period-authentic accessories. Such details as rounded corners, yellow-tile countertops embedded with black-tile trim, incongruent rectangular flooring patterns and recessed-panel cabinet doors add to the authenticity of the space.

“This client loves—and I mean loves—her kitchen,” CoCo says. “Designing a retro space that inspired the client so much and suited her unique interests and personality was the best aspect of this project.” 

THE TEAM PAID METICULOUS ATTENTION TO DETAIL IN IMPLEMENTING THE KITCHEN’S VINTAGE DESIGN, FROM A MID-CENTURY-MODERN STYLE PENDANT LAMP AND RETRO-INSPIRED MARMOLEUM FLOORING TO PERIOD ACCESSORIES.

**Over-cabinet shelves** create extra usable storage space in a small kitchen. This Northstar retro-inspired refrigerator helped set the tone for the design team during the planning process.



## STYLE FILE

**TYPE OF HOME:** c. 1980s Townhome

**BACKGROUND:** The design client wanted to continue a retro theme in her kitchen after remodeling the master bathroom in a similar aesthetic.

**DESIGN ELEMENTS:** Tile peninsula countertop, matching retro-inspired appliances, marmoleum flooring, under-counter and over-cabinet built-in shelves,

farmhouse sink, mid-century-modern pendant lighting.

**DECORATING COLOR SCHEME:** Buttercup and canary yellow with black accents, white, turquoise

**INNOVATIVE IDEA:** To give the space a distinctly Art Deco feel, the designers installed shelves and a peninsula countertop with soft, curving edges instead of hard, rectangular lines.





SAVED  
HERE,  
SPLURGED  
THERE

SAVED

**ISLAND** – A portable kitchen island is just as functional as its built-in counterpart and is especially convenient in a small space where flexibility and mobility are important.

**BARSTOOLS/ BAR CHAIRS** – The retro aesthetic is chic in design yet simple in construction. Don't spend a fortune on high-end barstools when light aluminum versions with removable seat cushions remain faithful to the vintage vibe.

**ACCESSORIES** – Vintage-inspired reproduction canisters, cookware, stepstools and other accessories blend seamlessly with the design and still function to today's standards.

SPLURGED

**APPLIANCES** – To set an authentic retro tone while ensuring easy access to the conveniences of a modern functioning kitchen, the client didn't mind ponying up for top-of-the-line Northstar appliances.

**FINISHES** – While you are sure to pay more for authentic finishes, such as curved countertop edges and rounded shelving, the lasting effect for accentuating a timeless period-authentic ambience is priceless.

**LIGHTING** – A functional kitchen should be well lit in all the right places. Invest in quality pendant lighting, as well as recessed and spot lighting as needed for your space.