

East Coast Home + Design Magazine

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HOFFMAN LANDSCAPES



When these Darien homeowners called Hoffman Landscapes, they were looking to do a complete overhaul of their backyard area. It was old, outdated and overgrown. The many sloping areas throughout made it difficult for children to play and adults to relax and enjoy.

When viewing the back of the house, it is apparent that several additions were built, giving the charming home a flowing, built-over-time feeling. What was awkward from a landscaping point-of-view were the many doors, decks and patios all leading to the outdoors. There was no clear focus to the space. To minimize the "clutter" of entryways and create flow, one set of steps was widened, one set was closed off and an existing deck off the back of the house was morphed into a lovely balcony. Outdoor LED lighting was added throughout to assure usability into the evening, and an outdoor audio system was installed for lively entertainment.

Consideration was given to the materials used, and how to best make the overall space functional yet modern, without compromising the integrity of the home. The designer liked the gently curved cobblestone steps he found in the yard at the beginning of the project and resurrected them to add softness to all the home's geometry. Combining old and new, the contrast of a more formal layout with the bucolic transitional materials connects the two terrace spaces, giving structure and symmetry to the property. The convenient outdoor kitchen is close to the house while modular furniture allows multi-positioning opportunities and contrasts nicely with the age of the home.

When speaking about the architectural design elements, Matthew Biron, Landscape Architect on the project says, "It's the juxtaposition of apparent opposites that makes it all work well. A combination of a more formal layout was achieved using the cobblestone embedded steps as a rustic secondary transition to the lawn area. In addition, we added retaining walls using native stone to provide a foundation for the



bluestone patios and walkway. The retaining walls provide a nice backdrop for two colorful perennial gardens below that include knockout roses, salvia, rudbeckia and hydrangea.

A shed dormer addition to the back of the garage afforded the perfect place for a wandering garden that leads to the terraces. Upon entering, a Miss Kim lilac welcomes you. Flowering shrubs such as Endless Summer Hydrangea and inkberry, mix with other colorful perennials. An espalier is flanked by fountain grasses.

The family loves their new outdoor space, especially the kids. With proper planning, an outdoor eyesore can become an oasis for your family and guests to enjoy for many years to come. And when spaces are designed and built with care and thought, the end result will surely be a wow!

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Kitchen + Bath Issue 2015



Today's pantry accessories include convenient pull-out shelves, racks and bins for placing cans and other foods within easy reach.



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(ACROSS FROM DRAGONE CLASSIC MOTORCARS IN NASH'S PLAZA)

Let Your Pantry Take You from Chaos to Cooking!

Story by Anne DiFrancesco and Lori Roffwarg

Way back when, if you had a walk-in pantry, it may also have housed the refrigerator or the sink, as kitchens were not the size they are in today's world. Or, maybe you had a small butler's pantry where there was just enough room for your most special china and serving pieces.

Fast-forward to the 21st century, and pantries have come into their own. No longer plagued with an identity problem, they play a significant role in our lives today. Pantries are one of the most requested features in American homes today, despite larger kitchen sizes.

There is a charm and nostalgia to the pantry, as well as a practical, utilitarian purpose. Walk-ins are outfitted with custom-built cabinetry and all the accessories that make meal prep easy. Although they are likely hidden from view, they work hard behind the scenes to keep the family organized and have items effortlessly accessible. Just because they may be out of sight or mostly used for storage doesn't mean they shouldn't reflect your design aesthetic. Furnished with the same door

and drawer style cabinets that are in your kitchen, they can act as a "pretty" extension to that room.

Where Do I Start?

Ask yourself what you want out of your ideal space. What features will improve your kitchen experience and perhaps encourage you to cook more? Take stock of the situation to get it under control. Just like offices with overflowing paperwork, and closets packed with rarely worn clothes, working with a trained designer will ensure optimization of your storage space to its fullest potential.

Renovating or adding a pantry can be life changing. "Since the kitchen is the heart and hub of the home, making order out of a characteristically disorderly space gives the cook and other household members a way to keep organized, calm and prepared," says Karen Bradbury, Design Director of the Norwalk, CT-based Closet & Storage Concepts. "When there is room to see what you have and what you need, it will



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Despite today's larger kitchen sizes, pantries are one of the most frequently requested features in the home today. They can be designed to provide additional workspace along with storage for small appliances keeping your kitchen countertops clutter-free.

make your shopping chore a lot less painful," continues Bradbury. A satisfied Scarsdale, NY customer exclaims, "The new design organized my kitchen pantry in such a way that it gives me easy access to everything. It keeps my kitchen neat, and brings food preparation to a whole new level."

Choose from a Wide Array of Options and Accessories

Just like the kitchen, pantries too have great accessories that keep items handy and give them a place of their own, even when buying in bulk quantities.

- Materials and finishes are available in many colors, styles and textures to fit any décor or create a whole new look.
- Pull-out shelves and racks enable cans in the back to be seen and readily reached.
- Pull-out bins and woven baskets for apples, or potatoes, onions

and other root vegetables are a wonderful option, so you know at a glance what you have on-hand.

The Perfect Blend of Design and Craftsmanship

Today's custom cabinetry construction offers maximum storage capacity and will fit even the tightest space, making every square inch available to use to its highest and best potential. Countertops provide additional workspace along with storage, keeping your kitchen countertops free of the dreaded small appliance menagerie that happens with today's countless, yet convenient tools-of-the-trade.

Shallow shelving highlights ingredients and places them within a hand's reach. A full view of all your spices and ingredients will not only cook up your imagination but satisfy cravings for new recipes as well. It can inspire you to prepare different and tastier dishes, making you feel like a rock star in your own kitchen! You may not aspire to

become a famous chef, but who doesn't want some accolades from the family now and then?

The pantry can also be designed to accommodate the wine fridge, along with extra wine racks and glasses, keeping your wine selections close at hand. You can carve out room for a computer/desk space to keep kitchen clutter at bay. This will keep the mountains of paperwork that accumulate on a daily basis under control, out of sight, yet easily found.

A Pantry's Stock and Trade

According to The Food Network, "Basic Pantry 101" states that "while a good shopping list is the key to a quick and painless trip to the supermarket, a well-stocked pantry is the best way to ensure that you'll have most of what you need to cook once you get home." At their site, you can find helpful information on Oils, Vinegars & Condiments, Seasonings, Canned Goods & Bottled Items, Grains & Legumes, Baking Products, Refrigerator Basics and Storage Produce. Having these staples on hand will enable you to create many delicious meals. Also, the Pantry Essentials Checklist "is like money in the bank". With basic supplies on hand, you'll be equally prepared to put together a family-friendly meal or a last-minute dinner for friends. Foodies favorite, the Bon Appétit website, offers a host of pantry essentials organized by cuisine and taste. Gain inspiration from pantry items the top chefs keep on hand from staples for healthier eating to the middle eastern pantry to a list of 16 desserts you can make right now from what's in your pantry.

DIY in Less Time = Independence for Every Family Member

An organized pantry will aid in reducing stress around meal planning, cooking and clean up. You want to store it, retrieve it and use it as easily as possible for all family members, whether they want a snack, a school lunch, to prepare just one meal or a week's worth of meals. Moms will not have to be asked where every single item is when everything is in plain sight, or drawers are labeled with what's inside, nurturing independence among members of the household. This will foster harmony and bring time savings to your life.

Would you like to get more function out of the space to help organize your family? Try adding an "activity center" with a chore chart, and a bulletin board to tack on invitations to the myriad of activities. Hang a calendar large enough to write each child's after-school happenings and appointments, so the tutus go to the dance class and the cleats show up on the soccer field!

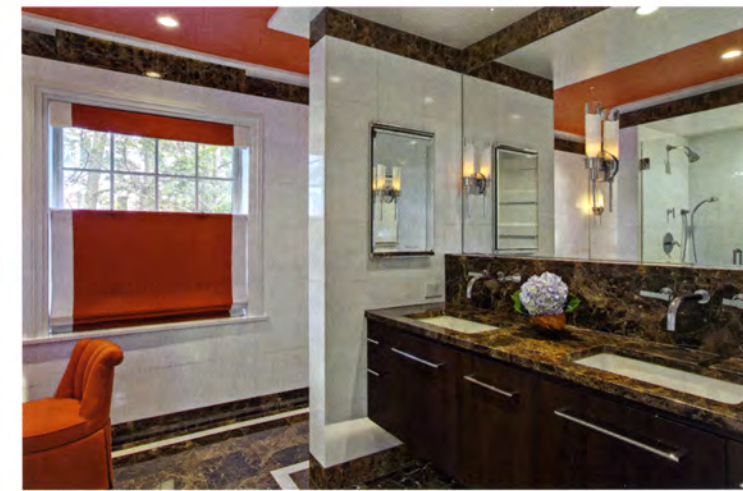
Pantries can help you live a more stress-free life in your home, and when you are calm and organized, your household will be soothed as well. That's a recipe you will be happy to mix up from your pantry.

Resource:

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Reference:

www.foodnetwork.com
<http://www.bonappetit.com/?s=pantries&offset=0&count=10>



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