

THE KITCHEN ISSUE 2025

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PETER SCIARRETTA

UNEXPECTED KITCHENS

BOLD DESIGNS THAT
BREAK THE MOLD

WRITTEN BY DANIELLE PORTER



A recent renovation of an early 20th-century brick Georgian home proves that pushing boundaries in design doesn't always require breaking with tradition. The project, which transformed a dated kitchen into the sophisticated heart of the home, demonstrates how thoughtful design can honor architectural heritage while embracing modern functionality. "The owners wanted it to feel fresh, yet classic and not overly trendy," explains architect Mary Burr of Burr Salvatore Architects. This delicate balance required a creative approach, technical innovation and aesthetic restraint, resulting in a series of spaces that work harmoniously to support the family's lifestyle and align with the classic architecture of the home. The transformation began with a dramatic engineering feat: Peter Sciarretta of Hemingway Construction managed the complex process of underpinning the slab-on-grade foundation to allow for excavation beneath the existing home. This effort provided adequate space for the design team to construct a new space, the mudroom, at ground level.



The mudroom that once led into the kitchen was undersized and often overflowed into the kitchen space, impacting the experience of the kitchen itself. Creating this new space not only freed up the existing, smaller mudroom to become a gardening room, but provided a more intuitive flow that allows family members to shed winter boots, backpacks and outdoor gear before ascending the stairs to the kitchen above.

In the kitchen itself, every detail serves both form and function. Interior designer Leason Cery, an integral team member, selected a whisper-blue for the island, which anchors the space. Subtle touches like the soft edge profile on countertops and mosaic floor tiles—inspired by French bistro design—exude a timeless elegance. Throughout the space, storage solutions abound, but they're cleverly concealed: a coffee bar with pocket doors, phone-charging drawers that eliminate counter clutter, and even a dedicated space behind mesh cabinet doors for the family dog.

Both the mudroom below and the new bar adjacent to the kitchen showcase how different spaces within a home can maintain distinct personalities and aesthetics while speaking the same design language, creating a harmonious experience. Clad in rich mahogany, the bar features unlacquered brass hardware and fixtures that will patina beautifully over time. It serves both interior and exterior gather-





ings through thoughtfully placed pass-throughs. Perhaps most notably, the renovation embraces functionality without sacrificing sophistication. The cutting room, equipped with stone counters and specialized storage, proves that working spaces can be both beautiful and practical. “This isn’t for show,” explains Mary. “If you open those drawers, they’re all full of tools. The owner is an avid gardener, and this space is used frequently.” The success here stems from exceptional collaboration among the design team, builders and homeowners. Weekly meetings involving Mary and Hemingway project manager, Doug Horn, ensured that every detail received proper attention. “These pictures and these spaces don’t get pulled off by accident,” Peter Sciarretta says, emphasizing how this high level of engagement from all parties elevated the final result. In the end, this renovation demonstrates that true luxury isn’t about following trends or creating showpieces—it’s about crafting spaces that seamlessly support and integrate into the daily life of each specific client and maintaining a timeless aesthetic that will endure for generations to come. ♦

Resource: Builder: Hemingway Construction; Peter Sciarretta, Chief Executive Officer; Greenwich, CT ; 203.625.0566; hemingwayconstruction.com. **Architect:** Burr Salvatore Architects; Mary Burr, Principal; Darien, CT; 203.655.0303; New York, NY; 212.475.0050; burrsalvatore.com.