



**CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT:** In a shallow space near the entry of a Gladstone, Oregon, kitchen designed by Vicki Simon Interior Design, cabinetry built by Maple Key holds dishes, pantry items, and a coffee station. The marble countertop peeks out even when the doors are shut. The cheerful color is Yellow Green by Benjamin Moore. The refrigerator is snugged perfectly into the nook that previously held the range.

## MODERN HERITAGE

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### DESIGNING IN A NEW, BLANK-SLATE SPACE HAS ITS APPEAL. BUT VICKI SIMON IS EVEN MORE PASSIONATE

about preserving the character of the older homes she renovates. So when a young family in Gladstone, Oregon, asked the interior designer to create a colorful kitchen in their historic home, her instinct was to work within its existing architecture, rather than swing a sledgehammer to force open the layout. With a clever reimagining of the space, the home feels lighter, brighter, and ideally suited to its energetic inhabitants.

Simon cleverly arranged the kitchen's functional elements in one zone, fitting the range, hood, sink, and dishwasher into just 8 linear feet. She deftly condensed storage and small appliances into a built-in wall unit on the far side of an original archway, using exposed brass hinges and moldings that mimic the original cabinetry. The freestanding, butcher block-topped island, built by Urban Industrial NW, doubles as a prep area and a dining surface and can be moved easily to fit the needs of the day. As for that happy, apple-y paint? Simon's clients wanted color in their kitchen, and she was delighted to oblige. "I chose green because the color is very similar to the trim in my parents' kitchen," the homeowner says. "The color ties in nicely with the funny little character of the house. It certainly has a personality." ✱





Simon tucked the range, hood, sink, and dishwasher into a spot formerly occupied solely by dish storage. The floating custom island, with a butcher-block top, does double duty as a work station and dining table. Stone tile in a herringbone pattern extends the backsplash all the way up the walls, adding a sense of scale. The brass fixtures are from Schoolhouse Electric.