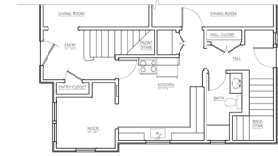




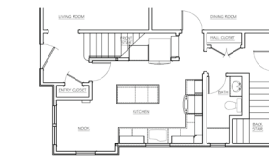
That's what Neil Kelly Design-Builder Byron Kellar did in this Alameda neighborhood charmer. "It's a 1932 house with a little breakfast nook that was basically not usable," Byron says. "Because of two

doors leading in and out of the kitchen combined with the stove and fridge along the same wall, there was not enough room to put in an island."



BEFORE

And everyone wants an island. In this case, homeowners Sheryl and Mark just wanted room to move. "My work spaces were narrow and inconvenient to use, says Sheryl. "My stove was next to the refrigerator with no counter space

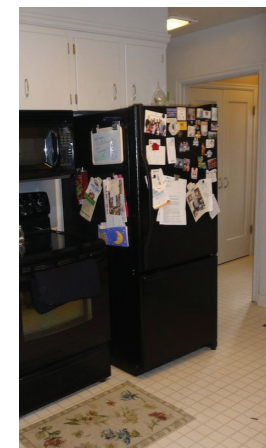


AFTER

around either one. The front hall door couldn't even open all the way without hitting the cabinets above the stove!"

So the need for space was important, but there was one major catch. Moving roof lines and exterior walls is not always possible, and often ruins the original character of the house. So Byron had to become a "Space Detective" of sorts. He had to find space to

BEFORE



move appliances and create counters, and he found it in an unlikely source: The stairs. Well, under the stairs, to be more specific. "The idea was to recess the fridge and microwave into the wall underneath the stairs that lead to the second floor," Byron says. "And that allowed us to put in an island."

— continued on reverse side

Neil Kelly Project Profile

Saving Space and Historic Alameda Charm

with Neil Kelly
Design-Builder J. Byron Kellar

We love our historic homes—their charm, their stately repose, the sense of neighborhood that they've created for generations.

But there's one thing most historic homeowners don't love about their graceful ladies: The lack of space. And nowhere in a classic home is the race for space accelerating faster than in the kitchen. It's where everyone gathers during a party, it's where you test and improve your culinary skills, and it's where we open the wine!

Let's face it, if you can't pull out the cork without elbowing your partner you need to redesign your space!

— continued from reverse side

He didn't stop there. Byron and his team of Mary Miksch, Dan Moore and Jason Hall moved the kitchen entry door about three feet, removed the old archway at the entry, and brought the nook into the kitchen. Of course, any of you who've attempted your own D.I.Y project already know that when you move one feature it usually creates an "issue" somewhere else, in this case three issues. The first "issue" in this Alameda home is this decorative, ornate wrought-iron stair rail.



Once the approach to the stairs was changed, the rail would need to be drastically altered. "I credit Ron Lucas from Platinum Forge for keeping the architectural element of the rail to make it work in that new location," Byron says.

"The second issue was more difficult. The door casings and stair skirt boards in

the entry are old figured gumwood, and it is wood that is nearly impossible to get." The third issue was how to restructure the removed nook wall with nothing in the basement to post to. This challenge was answered by including an engineered steel beam in the design.



To keep the style true to the era of the home, Byron designed custom door styles that played off the existing molding in the house. "We then used European style Neil Kelly Cabinets with end panels, parting beads, and three-quarter solid light valances that create an inset door look," Byron says. "With the environmentally-friendly cabinets it's the best of both worlds." Sheryl couldn't agree more: I wanted white cabinets, but couldn't get



happy with any of the existing door profiles—one was too plain and the other too ornate." Sheryl adds: "Byron and the Neil Kelly Cabinet shop made an antique profile just for us that's just right!"

With new pulls, pendant lights, and island Mark and Sheryl now have a functional kitchen that's beautiful to look at. "The changes blend very well, and even people who have been in this house a number of times before didn't notice that two walls have been moved," she says.

"The room has a 'wow' factor now."

Call for an in-home design consultation.

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