

DREAM 1 Kitchens

Ideas & Trends 38 Fabulous Looks

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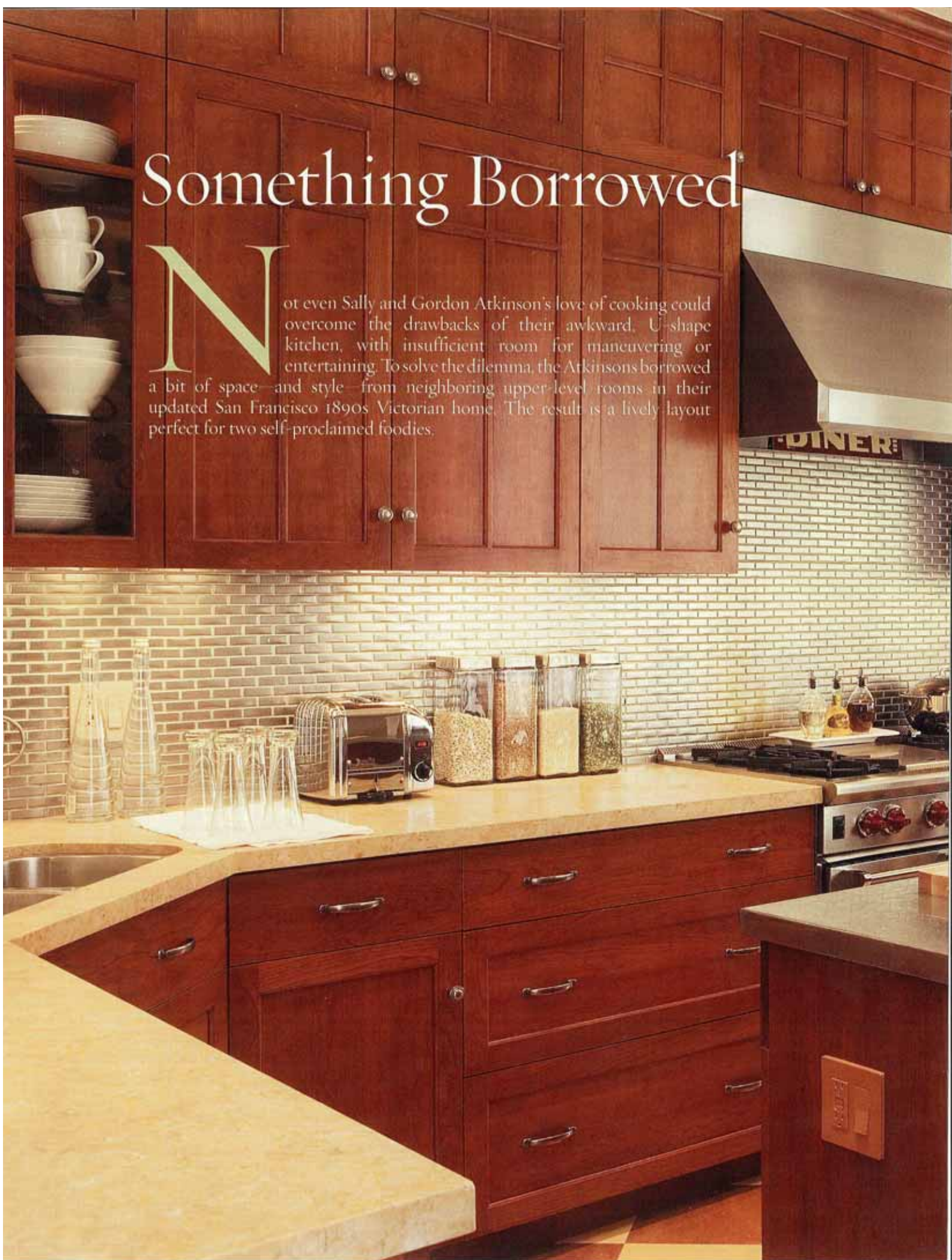
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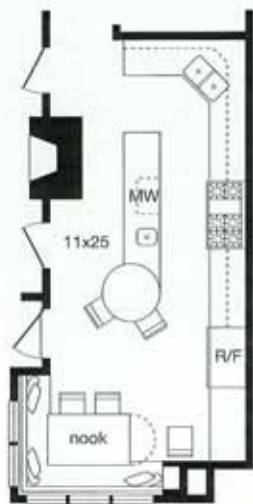
Something Borrowed

Not even Sally and Gordon Atkinson's love of cooking could overcome the drawbacks of their awkward, U-shape kitchen, with insufficient room for maneuvering or entertaining. To solve the dilemma, the Atkinsons borrowed a bit of space—and style—from neighboring upper-level rooms in their updated San Francisco 1890s Victorian home. The result is a lively layout perfect for two self-proclaimed foodies.





Each kitchen element presents a brand-new take on vintage style. The cherry cabinets mimic the design of the home's windows, and the long island resembles a sideboard.



Before the renovation, the kitchen lacked the space to comfortably host the 40 guests regularly invited to dinner. So interior designer Steven Miller added 3 feet to each end of the room and created an L-shape work core with an island. The new space fits in better with the bones of the narrow home, easing traffic flow and smoothing transitions into the more formal dining room.

The island, designed to resemble a sideboard, is a key component of the layout. Its elegant glass doors front the dining room side, while hardworking storage opens toward the cooking area. At one end, the island anchors a slightly elevated circular dining table that morphs into a bar during parties. Just like the

kitchen cabinets, the table is made of cherrywood, but with a slightly distressed finish. Situating the island at the center of the work core ensures that cooks can enjoy the company of guests as they prepare a meal. "It has a theater aspect," Sally says. "It's a place to sit and set up as a bar or buffet so everyone can come in and gather around while Gordon and I cook."

Although the kitchen is strictly new-school, its materials blend seamlessly with its distinctly vintage surroundings. Victorian-style wallpaper covers the ceiling, while the cabinetry patterns match the windows' Arts and Crafts design. Stainless-steel appliances and an industrial-look backsplash of small-scale subway tiles bounce light off one another. Warm, weathered limestone on the perimeter countertops balances the cool zinc island surface, which will develop a patina. "We chose materials that age well so that the aging would be part of the design rather than something [the Atkinsons] would always have to fight," Miller says.

The mix-and-match approach, which blends streamlined materials and vintage appeal, pays off. "It's a deliberate attempt to go back in time with materials that will fare better and last longer," Sally says. In this case, it's a time-travel experiment that works. **DK**

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TOP LEFT: Stainless steel lends a modern twist to the subway-tile backsplash.

TOP RIGHT: Interior lighting and cherry beaded-board backing add drama to the glass-front cabinets.

LEFT: A checkerboard-pattern linoleum floor distinguishes the kitchen from the adjacent living area.

OPPOSITE LEFT: The rich cherrywood of the elevated portion of the island matches the kitchen cabinets, and the stainless-steel backsplash coordinates with the appliances.