



The simple elegance of the 1920s blends perfectly with plenty of subtle modern touches in this Milwaukee lakefront Tudor.

Period Piece

BY RICK ROMANO | PHOTOGRAPHY BY DOUG EDMUNDS

WHERE: MILWAUKEE / **RENOVATION TIME:** EIGHT MONTHS / **COST:** OWNERS WON'T SAY, THOUGH EXTENSIVE INFRASTRUCTURE WORK SUPPORTS HIGH-END AESTHETICS / **SPLURGED ON:** GRANITE COUNTERTOPS AND BIRCH MILLWORK / **SAVED ON:** MAPLE HARDWOOD FLOORING / **BIGGEST IMPACT:** FLOOR-TO-CEILING BIRCH CABINETRY THROUGHOUT THE 400 SQUARE FEET OF KITCHEN AND PANTRY

When the owners of a 1920s-era expansive Tudor on Lake Drive needed an update to its 1980s-renovated kitchen, they called on Glendale-based Gabor Design Build.

“The focus was to emulate the 1920s and still meet today’s standards,” says Nathan Gabor, the firm’s owner and project manager.

It was a twofold approach to address mechanicals like extending an HVAC system, installing new LED lighting and raising the ceiling to 10 feet while giving the room a stately feel.

Design was inspired by floor-to-ceiling birch cabinets

lining one side of an adjoining, existing butler’s pantry. After removing part of an incinerator chimney stack, expert millwork matched not only the existing birch on the opposite side, but was extended floor to ceiling throughout the kitchen. The cabinetry provides plenty of leaded glass and opaque storage and expertly hides the Sub-Zero refrigerator, warming drawer and dishwasher — accentuating the room’s simple lines.

That simplicity plays well with classic modern touches, such as a green granite countertop and island, green



herringbone pattern marble and white subway tile behind the Wolf range, a double range and warming drawer, a farmhouse and prep sink and flat screen television.

The involved homeowner also sourced period lighting and brass shell pulls for the pantry.

Gabor credits several local companies that partnered

with his firm, including Burmeister Woodworking Co. of Hales Corners, Milwaukee's Nu-Town Painting, Heritage Lighting in Cedarburg and Shorewood's Oxford Glass.

With other Milwaukee projects to his firm's credit, Gabor says, "This is one of the best kitchens we have done lately."