

GOLD



Photo: Martin Vecchio Photography

English Manor Update

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When she first set foot inside the stately 1923 English manor, Lauren Tolles was awed by the architectural character – and disappointed by the small, dim kitchen with its 7-½' ceiling. The kitchen, breakfast nook and scullery were all located in the same wing, and while the kitchen had been remodeled within the last quarter century, it still felt cramped and dated.

The stone walls and windows needed to stay, so Tolles set about planning the best way to add storage and light within the existing constraints. To visually enlarge and streamline the space, she ran the countertop up behind the Ilve Majestic range to form the hood and shelving. Every other wall features a light, subtly textured subway tile that harkens back to the early 1900s, bouncing light around the space.

To streamline the layout, she integrated a large island that would provide food prep and serving space, along with seating for six.

The husband wanted light marble for the countertops, while the wife preferred something more robust, so Tolles found a compromise in durable SapienStone slabs in Onice Perle that she says mimic the flow and warmth of marble.

The neutral tone cabinetry has a clean but historical feel, while the Grothouse natural walnut island features slightly more modern millwork, and a furniture-like feel, adorned with unlacquered brass hardware brought in from England for authenticity.



The scullery area was re-imagined to serve as a morning bar, prep kitchen, pantry and mudroom. Navy cabinetry features a coffee bar and toaster hidden away behind antique mirrored doors, as well as undercounter Sub-Zero refrigerator drawers, a warming drawer and a steam oven. A walnut worktop warms the space, tying into the materials used at the bar. Opposite, the tall cabinetry takes on a wainscoting appearance, while offering plenty of pantry storage.