

# GO WEEKEND

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Maple cabinets conceal a drawer dishwasher, fridge, washer and dryer. The kitchen island offers additional storage as well as one of three sinks.

## Dreaming big pays off

### Reno supersedes a tiny kitchen



LISA HANNAM

While enjoying a bottle of wine with friends, Paula Esteves said the one thing she wanted was a larger kitchen. One of the friends was architect Bill Curran, who said it was possible, much to the surprise of her husband Steve Varey.

"Her face lit up," says Varey. "The next thing I know, we have a building permit."

With the boxy dimensions of the 1915 triple-bricked Hamilton house, a mud and laundry room and the 158-square-foot kitchen had to go.

"A massive steel beam had to be installed to support the house," says Curran of Thier + Curran Architects.

The three-month renovation lengthened the house, creating a 265 sq. ft. kitchen.

Esteves's taste leans toward the uncomplicated. "I didn't want it to look ultra modern. I just wanted it to have clean lines that speak to my sense of organization. Everything has its place."

That means everything is hidden, including the fridge and dishwasher, behind maple cabinetry custom designed by Unique Custom Cabinets & Renovations in Dundas.

"We tried very hard to make every square foot count," Curran says. "Some kitchens have a lot of stainless steel and tend to look very industrial, and that's

just not everyone's taste.

"It is a very warm and rich room, especially because of the wood."

Esteves says she didn't want to see any knots in the wood. "The door panels are cut in a way that it doesn't look like maple." Brushed stainless handles from Häfele in Burlington echo the clean lines of the kitchen.

Corian countertops, sourced by the cabinetmakers, were also used to create a seamless backsplash.

Curran says patterns in the countertop and porcelain floor tiles from Stone Tile International in Toronto bring attention to the cabinets.

An oversized island in the middle of the room has pullout drawers and silver pendant pot lights.

The kitchen's showpiece is the coffee bar with an espresso, cappuccino and latte maker by Saeco and a stainless steel counter.

"I could have easily put the coffee-maker on the counter in the kitchen but then it would be a part of my prep area," says Esteves. "That little corner seemed like a natural place."

Varey's personal touches in the kitchen include items from his mother and crafts made by his son.

"These things are dear to my husband's heart," says Esteves. "Personal pieces remind you that this is a home, our home."

Varey likes the new kitchen but offers a warning: "You really have to be careful what you wish for when you have a glass of wine with an architect."

Lisa Hannam reports on decor for *The Hamilton Spectator*.  
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PHOTOS BY JOHN RENNISON, THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR

A corner of the kitchen is dedicated to coffee and also has a fridge for beer and wine and storage space for cups and glasses.

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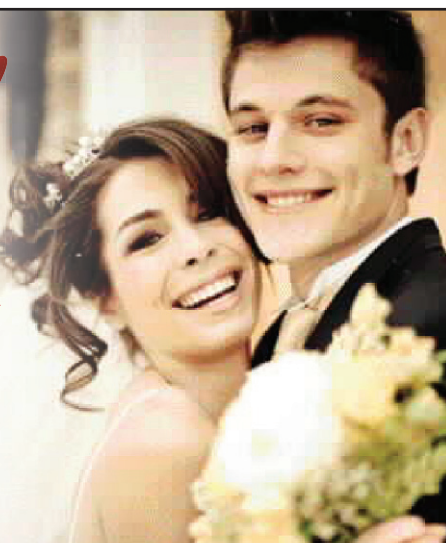
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