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THE RESURGENCE OF THE SCULLERY

BY BETH CONANT-KEIM

THE WORD "SCULLERY" COMES FROM THE LATIN WORD *SCUTELLA*, MEANING "TRAY" OR "PLATTER."

And houses built before 1921 in the United States and Great Britain were often built with sculleries in the rear of the home, where stacks of china and sterling silver would be kept for cleaning. My house was built in 1921, so I just missed this feature, I'm sad to say. I would love a space like this!

I have been incorporating plenty of scullery designs as of late, and I love getting creative with these little but mighty spaces. Because they are utilitarian areas, making them pretty is a challenge, but designing and seeing these rooms come together has been a lot of fun. Housing the functional pieces behind doors yet showing off rare finds, wedding gifts, and even art can turn these hidden rooms into gems.

This scullery is by far one of my favorites. I chose to unify the colors by painting the trim and walls to match the cabinets. Then I added a pop of color to the open shelves by stacking and showcasing lighter and brighter pieces. I felt a little French-inspired when I added the marble countertops and the brick floor, which was hand-painted by Janet Marsh.





“I LOVE GETTING CREATIVE WITH THESE
LITTLE BUT MIGHTY SPACES.”

I included a large drum shade over the island and tied in all the wood tones by including butcher blocks, cutting boards, and plenty of wooden bowls. Cookbooks are displayed because they look prettier when visible as opposed to hidden on a shelf, and, of course, a little art sprinkled in here and there completes the look.

With a space like this, you may be driven to keep a lot of French bread on hand and replace those branches or flowers on a regular basis! ♦



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