



# SOMETHING

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A bold focal point creates a beautiful farmhouse kitchen in this 1930s Washington, D.C., row house.

## Aqua Blue

**The renovation of this 1934 kitchen showcases** a beautiful marriage of old and new. Thanks to the work of Case Architects & Remodelers director of project development, Dave Vogt, and the designer-architectural specialist Avneet Luthra, this Washington, D.C., home received an eye-catching upgrade.

*(this page)* Second to the prominence of the sink, the kitchen range is a striking focal point. “Paneled appliances help the range be the star of the kitchen,” says Avneet, pointing out the intentionality of the room’s other design elements.

*(opposite)* “By opening the kitchen to the dining room, it allowed us to eliminate the small breakfast table the owners used in favor of a kitchen workspace,” Dave says. “They can use the dining room on a daily basis; it’s now connected through a larger pass-through/bar opening. We also created a larger door opening between the kitchen and dining rooms to reinforce the connection between the two spaces.”







This 1934 original sink is the hero of the kitchen design. Although the sink has been recentered under a new window, it retains its charm and bright aqua color.

### FINDING THE FOCAL POINT

Both Dave and Avneet agree that the place to start in a renovation is choosing one or two focal points in the room. For this project, it was the kitchen sink. “The most important element of the kitchen was the original sink, which is the centerpiece,” Dave says. “The owners loved the color and massive impact the sink had on the relatively modest-sized kitchen.” To refresh this aging piece, they refinished it on-site in its original aqua-blue color.

### OPTIMIZING SPACE

The next task was for the team to open up the layout of the old kitchen. “The windowsill was raised up to accommodate the high backsplash of the sink,” Dave says. “We also opened up the walls between the kitchen and dining room to modernize it.” This allows the kitchen to be larger, more functional and connect to the rest of the house as the homeowners desired.



These black built-in cabinets accentuate the bold design of the kitchen. The black is timeless and a strong contrast to the rest of the white kitchen, while keeping with the color scheme.

### BALANCING BOLD DESIGN

Dave and his team picked out kitchen details with care so they didn’t overshadow the vibrant color of the sink. “To add interest to the range wall, we selected a range in black. One can never go wrong with black—it’s a versatile color that adds interest to the space and is still considered neutral and goes with all other colors,” says Avneet. Keeping with this philosophy, the mosaic floor is primarily white and black with aqua penny rounds. The built-in cabinets sport a black finish and the inset cabinets a linen color.

After the renovation, this stunning kitchen effortlessly blends bold design and functionality. The unique features make it stand out, even amidst the surrounding historic neighborhood.

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## GO BOLD

Want a clean, bold farmhouse kitchen? Here are 3 key tips when you begin your design.

### 1. KEEP IT SIMPLE AND

**COHESIVE.** “Stick with one to two focal elements and create a background to work with,” says Avneet Luthra, designer-architectural specialist at Case Architects & Remodelers. “It can be any appliance, hood, cabinets, tile, etc. Understand how everything will come together at the end.” Build your design around these one or two points, and allow the surrounding details to complement the bold centerpiece.

### 2. TEXTURE WITH TILE.

Playing with tile for both the flooring and backsplash is a great way to add character to the room. “Tile can be a different texture, finish or color that makes [the kitchen] stand out,” Avneet says. “Full-height backsplash tile, patterned tile over the range [or] subway tile in a herringbone pattern are some of the ways to create interest in a design.” Other areas in which to explore texture are “metal hoods, honed or leathered countertops and painted cabinets.”

### 3. BE INTENTIONAL WITH

**ACCESSORIES.** Fixtures and accessories “should not be an afterthought,” Avneet says. “Faucets, hardware and light fixtures are like jewels for a kitchen. Select the finish and style that work best for design and function. Don’t be afraid to mix metals.” With these guiding principles, your kitchen design can also boast a bold and simple look.



The green color of the kitchen bar wall and the arched opening between the kitchen and dining room both add a beautiful pop of color that ties in the aqua sink and penny tiles. But they also contrast with the background of linen and black hues. The overall effect is an inviting entry point for the farmhouse-style kitchen.

Tip

Select only one or two focal points for a room. Then design the surrounding elements so they complement these centerpieces instead of detracting from them.

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