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## KITCHENS



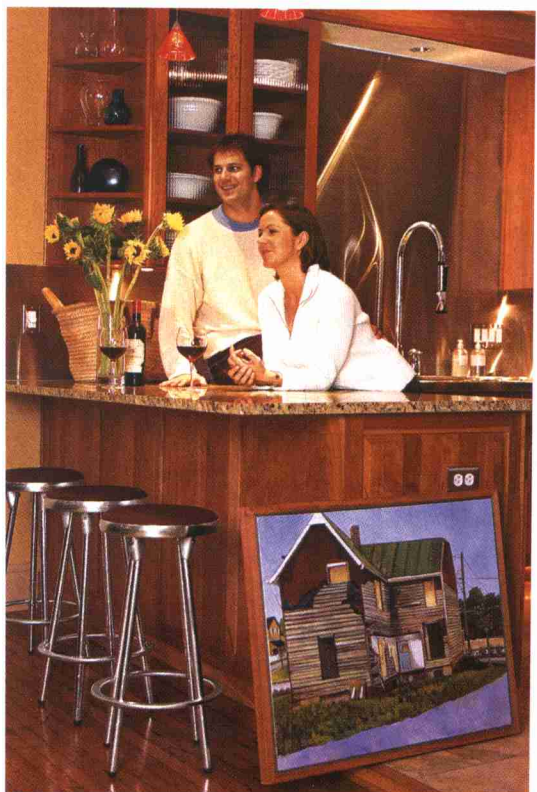
# MAKING A MODERN VICTORIAN

A GLEAMING PLACE TO COOK AND  
COMMUNE RISES FROM THE RUINS OF A  
VICTORIAN HOUSE IN INDIANAPOLIS.

The 16x16-foot kitchen displays a mix of old and new materials: Stainless-steel backsplash and appliances rev up the cherry cabinetry, crown molding accents the 10-foot-high ceiling, and travertine marble tiles cover the floor.

BY JILL CONNORS PHOTOGRAPHED BY KRITSADA/KRANTZ STUDIOS PRODUCED BY BETSY HARRIS





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**W**hen builder and designer Leif Hinterberger renovated a dilapidated circa-1900 house in Indianapolis' downtown arts district, he seized the opportunity to build his dream kitchen. Having once worked as a chef and having designed hundreds of kitchens for clients, Leif had no trouble envisioning the kitchen. "I wanted a look that was classic yet modern, that would fit this Victorian house," Leif says. It would have high-performance appliances and feature his favorite materials, such as marble, granite, stainless steel, and wood. The trick was finding where—within the home's shell—he would place the kitchen.

Because the house had been divided into five rental units—and had even caught fire at one point—he was essentially building from scratch. He could carve out whatever layout made sense. "There was a small working kitchen at the back of the house, but I wanted to enlarge that area for use as a garage," says Leif, whose firm,

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Tiina and Leif Hinterberger (top left) relax at the kitchen's granite-topped peninsula; the painting seen below them depicts the condition of the circa-1900 house before Leif bought it. With a machine shop to the right and an art gallery to the left, the renovated Victorian (above) stands proud in a downtown Indianapolis neighborhood. A dining area (top right) is adjacent to the kitchen, separated only by the peninsula; the quartersawn oak flooring is original, although it needed repair.





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Carreau Design, specializes in restoring old properties. He settled on the space formerly used as two bedrooms. "It makes a nice big area for cooking and lounging," says the builder, who today shares the house with his French-born wife, Tiina, whom he describes as a fabulous cook.

Within a 16x16-foot space, he laid out a U-shape kitchen. A granite-topped peninsula forms one side of the "U," also defining the kitchen and the adjacent dining area. A triple sink with a stainless-steel backsplash establishes a no-nonsense zone for prep and cleanup work, particularly useful when he and Tiina entertain groups of friends. A commercial-style range and built-in refrigerator complete the work area. Cherry cabinetry, a travertine marble floor, and crown molding add the old-world touches he prefers. "I like the mix of cool stainless steel and ribbed glass with the warmth of the cherrywood," he says. He opened the kitchen to the outdoors by installing patio doors where there had once been a window.

Best of all, the kitchen Leif designed as a bachelor now works beautifully for two. Even though he had lived in the renovated house for a year before he even met Tiina, he credits her with really finishing the work. "I may have built this kitchen, but it never looked this good until it had her touch." 🍷

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Keeping everything within easy reach, Tiina (top) uses baskets for fruit storage and display. Leif chose a triple sink with a commercial-style spigot (above), knowing how easy it makes kitchen prep and cleanup. Ribbed glass cabinet doors allow a glimpse of white bistro china.