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OUT WITH THE NEW,
IN WITH THE OLD



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By Teresa Akersten

After living in a contemporary home on this sprawling property for two decades, the owners found themselves empty nesters. It became clear their "glass" house was too big and too energy consuming to take them into their golden years. They needed to downsize. They needed something cozier. Plus, this was a chance to create a space that would perfectly suit her passion for Swedish design.

Enter Jack Arnold. The owners fell in love with a particular house plan from the world-renowned architect's Country French Classics portfolio. They purchased the plans and hired **Cherokee Construction** of Wyndmoor, PA. to build the 5,000-plus square foot home with a first floor master bedroom suite. It took more than two years to work out all the details necessary to make the space as special as you see here in these photographs.

Although new, the home feels as though it was built 100 years





The palette consists mostly of neutrals, from the paint colors chosen for the walls to the wood-beamed ceilings to the whitewashed rococo Swedish furnishings picked up at Dawn Hill Swedish Antiques in New Preston, CT. Yet modern conveniences and energy-efficient technology were incorporated throughout.

“It’s the right step at the right time of life,” the homeowner says. Particular attention was paid to the kitchen, designed by Lisa Tobias of Tobias Design. Based in Hopewell, NJ, Tobias is a dealer of Bentwood Luxury Kitchens, which has a cabinetry line designed by Jack Arnold himself. Tobias says she worked from photographs of Arnold’s own home to create this look of simple elegance.

Alder wood with a midnight finish was selected for the cabinetry on the island, which seats three comfortably. The black paint has considerable distressing, including chips, wormholes, cracks and rub-throughs which mimic furniture that has been painted numerous times over many decades. The center panels on the island have a raised pyramid design. Wrought iron legs support the countertop where a replica of an old wine bottle opener is perched.

Perimeter cabinets, as well as those used on the butler’s pantry, are also alder wood with a blanc-painted finish with distressing.

Provence glass doors were used on the wall of the butler’s pantry and Avignon doors with a diamond design were used for the base, which includes a paneled dishwasher and storage for linens. “All of this cabinetry was designed to be in keeping with the style of French Country architecture,” says Tobias.

Tan travertine stone was used for the flooring as well as the dramatic hood, which spans from floor to ceiling. The countertops and backsplash are carrera marble and were fabricated by Marble Crafters out of Philadelphia. Details include niches constructed into the backsplash on either side of the range, as well as a built-in butcher block on the island. “I love the white marble. That was a big decision,” says the homeowner. “I love living with these exquisite materials.”





The Bouvet hardware comes from France and was purchased at Home Hardware Design in West Trenton, NJ. The island features polished brass knobs; the perimeter and butler's pantry were done in a bronze patina.

Appliances include a 48-inch Wolf range and a 36-inch SubZero refrigerator/freezer. The forged iron pot rack holder is from Jack Arnold's French Country line.

Above the island hangs an antique French lead crystal chandelier from Dawn Hill. "The chandelier is a really pretty juxtaposition over the island, because it's unexpected," says Tobias.

This will be the homeowners' first spring in their new house. They look forward to enjoying views of the pond and the gardens, sipping wine while sitting on their veranda and welcoming family and friends whenever possible.

To sum up what she has learned in the process of building a new home and downsizing, the owner recommends loving the things you have.

She says she made sure to bring over her favorite pieces, including French antiques, paintings and other art. "The things that I really loved I really wanted to hold onto. I really wanted to keep seeing."



CREDITS:
 Jack Arnold Homes of Elegance
 Kimmel Bogrette Architecture + Site
Cherokee Construction
 Carol Durham Interior Design
 Tobian Design
 Dawn Hill Swedish Antiques
 New Preston, CT